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THE TIMES

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No. 65,551

THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996

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'I am a passionate free-trader'

Blair courts Wall St with pledge on tax

By PETER RIDDELL IN NEW YORK AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR flew into New York last night to tell some of the world's leading financiers that a Labour Britain would be a safe bet for their investments.

Within hours of arriving for a three-day visit, the Labour leader told a Wall Street audience that he was a "passionate free-trader and unashamed anti-protectionist". He assured them of his commitment to enterprise and promised that Labour would set tax rates that would not deter overseas companies.

Setting the tone for a trip that is designed to convince international financial opinion that Labour has changed for good, Mr Blair assured executives that the old image of a "high tax and spend" party was dead and buried, and that he would retain the key elements of Margaret Thatcher's trade union reforms.

It was the sort of message that previous Labour leaders — even Neil Kinnock in the early days of the modernising crusade — would have found difficult to deliver for fear of angering leftwingers at home. That Mr Blair was able to do so, probably expecting no more than a murmur of protest, was further confirmation of his domination over his party and its conversion to the market economy.

His audience yesterday included representatives from BZW, Goldman Sachs, S G Warburg and Lazards, George Soros, the billionaire trader whose activities put the pound under the heaviest pressure during the ERM fiasco, also asked to see him.

Mr Blair told them that Labour had changed since they last knew it in government and was changing still. It was moderate, committed to economic stability and would set tough inflation targets. While there would be real change under a Labour administration — particularly in



Tony Blair leaving Heathrow yesterday

Policy test

Labour has the best policies on ten of the 14 most important general election issues, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. It is well ahead on economic and social issues and trails only on questions of foreign policy. — Page 10

the fields of training, education and welfare — there would also be elements of continuity, notably with the trade union reforms.

Mr Blair also promised a more positive attitude to Europe than had been seen in recent years, adding that a sound Anglo-American relationship depended on strength in Europe and the US was coming from a "vocal, protectionist, isolationist and extreme right wing", he said.

Emphasising that the days of high taxing and spending were gone, Mr Blair said Labour understood that tax rates must be competitive internationally to attract international business investment — a theme that he will develop today in a speech to the US-UK chamber of commerce setting out how industry and government can work together for the common good. Mr Blair's visit is intended

to raise his profile on the international stage — culminating tomorrow in talks at the White House with President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore — and senior Tory strategists are resigned to his being feted in Washington, even though his arrival yesterday was overshadowed by the funeral of Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary killed in a plane crash in Croatia last week.

One close adviser to the Prime Minister said yesterday: "Clinton will want to punish us. There is no doubt about that." He was referring to anger among Democrats during the last presidential campaign when Conservative strategists went over to help in the campaign to re-elect George Bush. Tory MPs were furious at the move, which they felt at the time would be counter-productive.

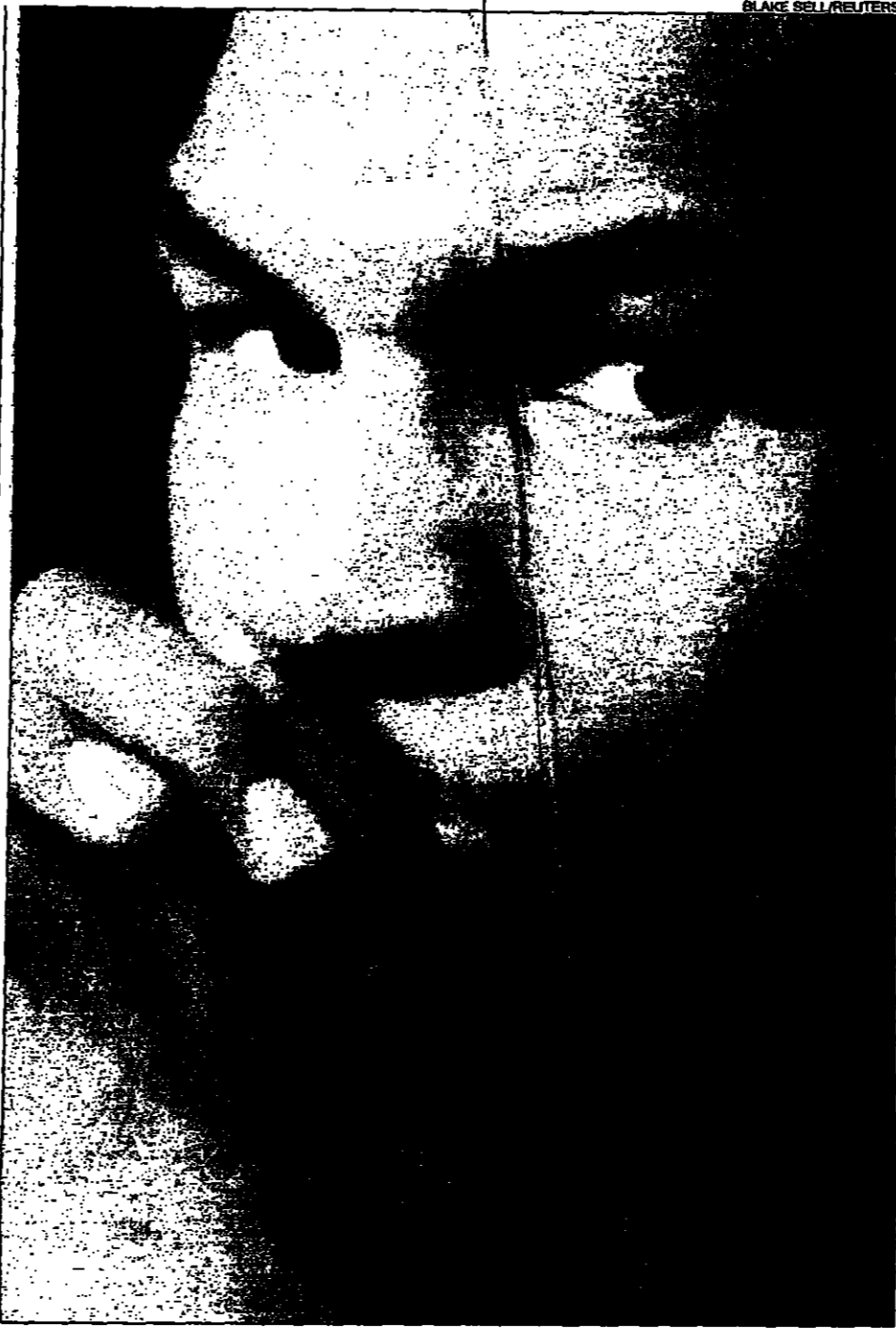
There was also controversy last weekend over the Conservatives' decision to send Republican sympathisers a sheaf of quotations from Mr Blair, allegedly detailing his "un-American activities".

Mr Blair can be certain that Mr Clinton will give him an entirely different reception from that accorded to Mr Kinnock by Ronald Reagan in 1987. He got short shrift at the White House and Mr Reagan's press spokesman then issued a hotly disputed account of the meeting.

Mr Blair and Mr Clinton, by contrast, are reported to have got on well when they met for a lengthy chat in London last November.

The Labour Leader has already benefited from extensive publicity in America and he will make a number of television appearances during his visit, including an eight-minute interview on the ABC network television breakfast show, *Good Morning America*.

Tax seminars, page 10



Mike Tyson, who is out on parole. Now he faces an accusation of sexual assault

Tyson denies sex attack in club

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the heavy-weight boxing champion, is under investigation after a woman complained of sexual assault. She said she was badly treated by him in a Chicago nightclub.

Police said yesterday that "a report involving Mike Tyson has been made and will be under investigation," although no charges have been made. The incident is said to have happened in the fashionable Cliche discotheque on the city's South Side, where Tyson went on Sunday after visiting a mosque.

Yesterday, the Tyson camp backed the boxer's denial of

the allegation, saying there was no truth in the claims.

The 25-year-old woman, identified only as an Indiana beauty and the co-owner of an off-licence, telephoned police at 6am on Monday. Her lawyer submitted a formal, written complaint of sexual battery on Tuesday night.

For Tyson, the accusation is an echo of his 1992 conviction for raping Desiree Washington, a contestant in the Miss Black America beauty pageant. He served three years in jail, and is on parole.

On his release last year, the boxer said he intended to live a quiet, devout life as a Muslim.

His first stop on leaving prison was a mosque, and he took to wearing Islamic garb. His daily literature, we learnt, was the Koran.

In recent months, however, as he has rediscovered his form in the ring — including victory over the WBC champion Frank Bruno to regain a world title — and renewed his acquaintance with some of the characters who run boxing, there have been signs of a return to a less strict regime.

His recent 30th birthday party in New York City to have been attended by "lots of beautiful women with hardly any clothes on".

Church urged to stop drift of young people from the pews

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND LIN JENKINS

FUNDAMENTAL change is needed to stop young people abandoning the Church of England in droves, the General Synod is to be told after a study found that youth attendance had dropped by a third in seven years.

Youngsters are becoming increasingly alienated, in spite of the growth of the evangelical movement, so-called "happy clappy" services and alternative styles of worship, and their lack of interest threatens the future of Anglicanism into the next century, the report says.

The Church's Board of Education working party urges bishops and the Church hierarchy to consider pledging a third of funds to the under 25s, decentralising power to allow more young people a role in decision making, and developing new forms of worship.

The report, *Youth A Part*, is the result of a three-year examination of the extent, nature and purpose of work with 11 to 25-year-olds.

It found that while the Church still played a pivotal role with young people at christenings, marriages and funerals, it failed to draw them in on a regular basis.

Since 1987, Sunday attendance among those aged 14 to 17 has fallen by nearly 35 per cent to just 60,739. In the same period, attendance among 18 to 21-year-olds has fallen by 34.1 per cent to 39,955. Church attendance in the 22 to 25 age group is 53,405, although there is no comparative figure from previous years.

Research by the Centre for Theology and Education at Trinity College, Carmarthen, has also found a drop in attendance at other church-based organisations. Youth clubs, Guide and Scout groups meeting at church halls all went into sharp decline be-

tween 1987 and 1993 — for example, the number of 18 to 20-year-olds going to youth clubs fell over 40 per cent.

With almost a third of the population aged under 25, the working party says that steps need to be taken to involve them in the running of the Church. Only 1 per cent of those serving on parochial church councils are aged under 25 — about 2,000 people. There are however, nearly 10,000 young bell ringers, 21,000 acting as servers and more than 28,000 who sing in choirs.

Large numbers of young people still marry in church — there were 69,531 brides and grooms aged under 25 in 1994 — yet they fail to go to Sunday services.

The working party was chaired by the Rt Rev Ian Harland, Bishop of Carlisle, who described the picture as "bleak" and called for the Church and young people to find common ground.

But while he said the decline seemed to be accelerating, he thought it was partly a result of a general change that had seen young people abandoning many organisations.

In a foreword to the report, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, recalled that the Church was always "one generation away from extinction".

He added: "We are called upon, as a Church, to proclaim the faith afresh in each generation". My hope is that this report will stimulate us to do precisely that, so that many thousands of young people may come to find, as I did over 40 years ago, that excitement, challenge and satisfaction of a living relationship with Christ."

Leading article, page 19
Cultural gap, page 6

Labour confident of by-election win

John Major's Commons majority will fall to one tonight if the Conservatives lose the Staffordshire south-east by-election.

After a busy final day of campaigning, Labour was confident of overturning the 7,192 Tory majority. If they do so, the Prime Minister's 21-seat majority at the 1992 general election will have been all but wiped out, leaving him even more at the mercy of events. — Page 10

Endangered Tory MP gets survival manual

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

ANTHONY STEEN, MP, may have hit on a growth industry. He has written a guide for a fellow Conservative on how to keep his marginal seat.

Mr Steen, the member for South Hams, an MP since 1973 and author of *TIPS (Tested Ideas for Political Success)*, was commissioned by Gary Waller to tell him what he needs to do to hang on to his marginal constituency of Keighley (majority 3,596) in West Yorkshire.

The blunt analysis in the 16-page report is the most comprehensive guide to handling constituents since kissing babies was first suggested. Among the advice to Mr Waller is:

- Hold tea parties for Bangladeshi and Pakistani children to improve links with the local Asian community.
- Sponsor a series of music and sports trophies for school children — dubbed the "Gary Waller Awards" — to get to be known by local parents.
- Make sure that invitations for coffee mornings are not handscrawled but are proper-

ly set out to suggest "a level of formality".

Walk down the street during house visits leaving party activists to knock on doors, but "keep your eyes open to avoid being run down by a car".

Associate yourself more closely with disadvantaged groups, such as the disabled and single parents.

Mr Steen said a dozen other experienced MPs first began advising fellow Tories at the instigation of Jeremy Hanley, the former party chairman. The "Chairman's Men" have written reports on some 20 MPs who asked for their advice.

When asked of his assessment of Mr Waller, Mr Steen said yesterday: "I gave him very high marks. All I was doing was a little fine tuning. But to give him an alpha-plus would have been unreal."



"You're booked, Chief Constable, but I'd like to add we both thought you handled the car superbly at high speed"

Chief Constable caught speeding

The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Ben Gunn, was stopped by one of his own traffic patrols and reported for speeding at 90 mph on the M11.

Mr Gunn, an expert on DNA and counter-terrorism, apologised for the incident, which will be considered by his force's police authority. He has already paid a fixed penalty fine of £40 and will have three penalty points put on his licence. — Pages 3, 17

British aid worker trapped in Liberia

By SAM KILEY

TEENAGE soldiers armed with machineguns and automatic rifles went on a looting rampage in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, trapping a British aid worker in his flat last night.

John Hare, an engineer working for Save the Children, ignored the chance to be evacuated in order to act as a logistical co-ordinator for the medical agencies coping with the wounded on the streets.

Mr Hare, 47, a father of three from Hatherleigh in Devon, was described by the charity's overseas director as "extremely unflappable".

His wife, Susan, speaking from home, said last night she was "not shocked when he said he was going to stay. He explained that there were a lot of people there in a lot of trouble and they needed his help. I don't get used to these situations but I accept his job and support him in it," she added.

Bart Witteveen, Save the Children team leader, said that looting was widespread throughout Monrovia, the beachside suburb from where

American helicopters flew other foreigners to safety in neighbouring Sierra Leone. Last night the operation was being hampered by rain.

"Looters are working their way through the area stealing cars and other equipment from the aid agencies and the United Nations. Pretty much every parking lot is being worked over by boys with their guns," he said from the flat where he was trapped.

After seven years of civil war Liberians have grown accustomed to the rattle of machineguns and the crash of artillery around their capital. What really scared them were the teenage gunmen who take conflict as an excuse for looting.

At the Mamba Point Hotel, also close to the American embassy, a receptionist said that he had come to work last Friday before the fighting between Roosevelt Johnson and Liberia's fragile coalition government broke out. "I have not been home since then."

Monrovia rescue, page 12
Leading article, page 19

Self Assessment

Keep an eye open for it!



When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

Inland Revenue
Self Assessment — a clearer tax system

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WE OR FAX AN IMMEDIATE OTATION

BR sale chief to quit job two years early

By JONATHAN PRENN TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT



Salmon: intense political pressure

THE man responsible for selling off British Rail's passenger services announced yesterday that he is to quit two years early. Roger Salmon, who became rail franchise director in November 1993 for a five-year term, has told the Government he wants to leave after three years in October.

The embarrassing announcement comes as the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), which he heads, enters negotiations over the sale of the politically sensitive ScotRail and West Coast Main Line franchises.

Mr Salmon, 50, has been under intense political pressure to rush through the sale of franchises since he took the job and has faced constant criticism from opponents of privatisation.

His tenure has been dominated by disputes over the sale of rail services, including his decision to axe the Fort William steamer, which was later reversed; two last-minute court challenges to the sale of franchises; and the embarrassing withdrawal of the LTS franchise hours before it was due to be transferred to its managers.

The Government had hoped to sell 51 per cent of services by April 1, but only 17 per cent were operating in

the private sector by the deadline. He said: "I have done what I feel I came here to do." The sale of franchises would be at an advanced stage by the autumn. "I therefore feel it is appropriate for me and for the long term health of Opraf to hand over to someone else."

A herd of 113 British cows in 21 states will be incinerated and their brains examined for bovine spongiform encephalopathy while doctors in Minnesota, California, Connecticut and Oregon begin tracking carriers of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, its human form. Both are seen as precautionary measures in the wake of the British crisis. No

symptoms of BSE have been covered in a biannual monitoring of the cattle which arrived in America before a 1989 ban on British animal imports.

Influence of CJD, meanwhile is very small and the disease is only known to afflict one in a million Americans every year. But the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention agreed this week that the four states should act as experiments for a universal tracking programme to ensure the immediate recognition of any increase in numbers. The decision by the CDC comes only weeks after Britain

EU postpones decision on beef byproducts ban

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE blanket ban on British beef remained in force last night after senior European Union officials turned a deaf ear to calls for beef byproducts such as gelatin and tallow to be removed from the prohibited list.

There had been no prospect of lifting the meat embargo, but the Commission in Brussels had hoped that the Standing Veterinary Committee would agree to allow the export of the two byproducts, used in a broad range of food, cosmetics and medicines. Last week the World Health Organisation said that these carried no risk of passing on "mad cow" disease. However,

resistance to any easing of the ban was so strong that the Commission decided not to table a formal proposal for a vote yesterday. Instead, it will seek an opinion on the byproducts from an EU medical products body which meets on Monday.

Keith Midgum, the Government's Chief Veterinary Officer, was given a sceptical hearing when he repeated Britain's argument that the export ban was not justified by any evidence linking bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent. British officials took some

satisfaction, however, from the Commission's emphasis on scientific argument.

Only Sweden showed any sign of supporting British efforts to ease the curbs. "Member states linked very directly any easing of a ban with a clear eradication and control programme from Britain," Gerry Kieley, spokesman for Franz Fischer, the Farm Commissioner, said.

"Governments are clearly not prepared to do anything at this stage to jeopardise fragile consumer confidence, which is gradually building up."

The Ministry of Agriculture said it was disappointed by the decision. "We had at least

hoped that gelatin would have been taken off the list of banned products," a spokesman said. "There is absolutely no scientific reason for its inclusion, as the World Health Organisation pointed out only last week."

Even if the byproducts are allowed, there is little prospect that the main export ban will be eased until the Government satisfies other EU states that it has a plan for a selective cull to remove all possible traces of the BSE from the food chain. Consumption of beef has fallen 15 to 30 per cent, according to trade estimates in France, Germany and Belgium.

Beef traders told the Prime Minister last night that their industry was "within days of collapsing like a house of cards". The warning was contained in a letter delivered to 10 Downing Street by the International Meat Trade Association, which represents all sectors of the industry other than farmers.

The association wants John Major to take personal charge of a rescue plan. It suggests the Government buy the unwanted beef and keep it in deep-freeze for possible sale in the future if new scientific evidence shows it to be safe.

Letters, page 19

Clinton orders destruction of British cattle in America

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE slaughter of all British cattle exported to America was ordered yesterday as the Clinton Administration launched an investigation into the mysterious human brain illness linked to mad cow disease.

A herd of 113 British cows in 21 states will be incinerated and their brains examined for bovine spongiform encephalopathy while doctors in Minnesota, California, Connecticut and Oregon begin tracking carriers of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, its human form. Both are seen as precautionary measures in the wake of the British crisis. No

symptoms of BSE have been covered in a biannual monitoring of the cattle which arrived in America before a 1989 ban on British animal imports.

Influence of CJD, meanwhile is very small and the disease is only known to afflict one in a million Americans every year. But the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention agreed this week that the four states should act as experiments for a universal tracking programme to ensure the immediate recognition of any increase in numbers. The decision by the CDC comes only weeks after Britain

became the focus of world attention after the infection of ten patients with CJD and the demands for the slaughter of thousands of cattle.

American experts, however, have questioned the British Government's belief that mad cow disease was caused by feeding cattle on contaminated sheep carcasses.

Experiments carried out by the US Department of Agriculture have failed to reproduce the symptoms of mad cow disease (BSE) after cows were injected with material taken from sheep with scrapie, a related disease.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug smuggler visits cannabis museum

Britain's first museum devoted to the history and usage of cannabis opened its doors in East London yesterday with a guest appearance by Howard Marks, the former international drug smuggler released from jail in America last year. Police decided to take no action against the museum, but said they would monitor its activities.

Mr Marks said he had come to promote legislation and was concerned about the stifling of debate. Robert Christopher, 28, a former civil engineer who runs the museum in Shoreditch, said: "We are doing nothing illegal. The one thing you will not find here is the leaves and other users' materials. Another exhibit shows how cannabis is grown and harvested and there are displays of marijuana posters."

Dunblane gym razed

Workmen moved into Dunblane primary school yesterday to begin demolishing the gym where 16 children and their class teacher were shot dead four weeks ago by Thomas Hamilton. Several parents who lost their children in the tragedy had asked to see the demolition to help with their grieving. Police and social workers arranged to escort them and stay while they watched.

Photocards for drivers

New plastic driving licences carrying a photograph of the holder will be introduced early next year, the Government announced yesterday. The change is part of a European initiative that will include a written examination as part of the driving test. Surveys suggest that 80 per cent of people are in favour of the idea, although there have been fears that it will double up as an identity card.

Cunard sued over reef

The Egyptian Government is demanding £16 million in damages from the Cunard cruise line after the *Royal Viking Star* carved a huge hole in a protected Red Sea coral reef last week. Egyptian officials fear that the damaged area of the Ras Mohammed reef, which harbours rare tropical fish, could take a century to grow back. A Cunard spokesman said: "We are fully insured."

Tube tries safety bounce

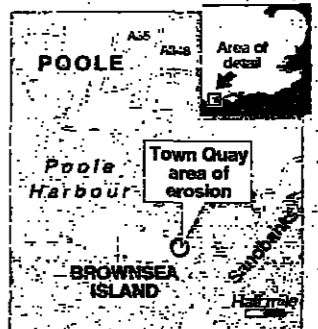
London Transport is considering spending £1 million on plastic shields to cover gaps between Tube train carriages to stop passengers falling onto the track as they board. The 1.5m-high barrier is attached to the carriages by straps resembling bungee cords and passengers who fall against them are bounced back onto the platform. The device will be tested on one Piccadilly Line train next month.

Cup finalist in court

Neil Ruddock, a defender with Liverpool Football Club, is to appear in court charged with obstructing police after a crash involving his sports car in January. Ruddock, who is summoned to face Southport Magistrates on May 9, his 28th birthday and two days before Liverpool's FA Cup Final against Manchester United. A 17-year-old girl from Formby, Merseyside, will appear on a similar charge.

Brownsea rescue

Emergency work is to be undertaken to prevent Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, Dorset, from being eaten away by the sea. The National Trust, which since 1961 has owned the 500-acre site where Baden-Powell founded the Scout movement in 1907, is to build an underwater "rock armour", consisting of 10,000 tonnes of boulders, to shore up the crumbling jetty and sea wall. Marine engineers have advised that the structures, and half a dozen cottages behind them, may not survive another winter. Parts of the island's eastern shore are being eroded at the rate of a yard a year. The work, which is expected to cost £250,000, is due to start in September.



Family of 17 evicted

A family of 17 are to be evicted from their council house in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, after 500 complaints. The 50-year-old woman, who has ten children, and her family were given 48 hours to leave by Salford County Court which was told that the family was chronically noisy, threatened violence and was involved in burglary. In 1994 police arrested the woman and described her as "ugly".

Meditate, then cogitate

Scientists at California State University, Long Beach, have discovered that transcendental meditation really does make the brain work better. They have shown that during meditation blood flow in the brain increases significantly, which implies increased mental activity, while ordinary relaxation produces only a tiny increase.

Teachers call for action to curb staffroom bullies

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS will today call for industrial action over the rising tide of school bullying which they say they suffer at the hands of their own head teachers and senior staff.

In a survey carried out by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, more than 2,000 of the 3,500 teachers who returned questionnaires said they had experienced victimisation at school, often from senior staff but sometimes from governors and parents.

One female respondent from a church school wrote: "The bullying governor is the parish priest and, as such, is unassailable. I have now left."

A male teacher bullied by a female head teacher in a special school said: "She physically hit one member of staff. She wrote 'Dead, dead' on my desk in red chalk. The woman was deranged but no one wanted to deal with it."

The survey received the highest proportion of complaints from teachers in independent schools. A female teacher bullied by a female head in an independent school said: "She employs every method she can to intimidate staff. I have witnessed men leave her office in tears. She drove me to start smoking again. She is becoming more of a megalomaniac as each day passes."

There was also a significant response from women teachers who felt bullied because they were pregnant. One

teacher who was scared to go home to look after her sick child, brought her into school in a blanket.

Brian Robinson, who compiled the report, said the union wanted to support "collective resistance to victimisation."

He said: "We have suddenly become aware of this very serious problem. In a very few cases the bullying resulted in violence to the person and property. It is utterly appalling. If you dealt with children like this everyone would be on your back. But when we deal with each other like this, people say life is like that."

The report, *No Place To Hide*, calls for a series of measures including a new law on workplace bullying and for all schools to set up anti-bullying policies for their staff.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, added: "We should be more than prepared to bring members out in a school if it can be shown a member is being victimised and there is support in the school. Why shouldn't we take action?"

Mr de Gruchy yesterday distanced his union from moves at the National Union of Teachers' conference earlier this week to campaign for a more positive image for lesbians and gays in schools.

"I don't think it is right for a teacher to come into school and say 'I am homosexual or I am heterosexual.' There is a responsibility on schools to keep contentious issues out of the classroom."

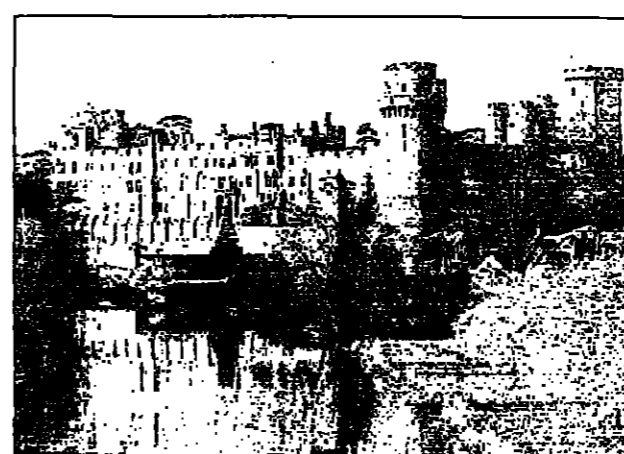
Warwick Castle is family favourite

By ROBIN YOUNG

WARWICK CASTLE was named last night as the historic property in Britain that has done most to involve families in the enjoyment and appreciation of Britain's heritage.

The castle, regarded by many as the finest medieval castle in England, was chosen as winner of *The Times* Family Award from more than 160 properties nominated by members of the public for the NPI National Heritage Awards, the first scheme in Britain devoted to honouring the nation's favourite historic treasures.

The NPI Gold Award, the top prize at last night's awards ceremony at the Café Royal in London, went to Chatsworth, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, which had been won the Historic Houses Association category and was declared overall favourite among all the competing properties. The Gold Award was presented by Lord Montagu of Beauchief at



Warwick Castle chosen from a list of 160 properties

the climax of a gala evening hosted by Angela Rippon. He said: "The NPI National Heritage Awards give a voice to the visitors to our historic properties by enabling them to vote for what they like best." Voting to decide the individual category winners and the winner of the Gold Award was conducted in conjunction with *The Times*.

Kevin McBrien, general

manager of the pensions company NPI, which initiated the awards, said: "We were delighted with the response in the first year of the scheme. It proves that as a nation we value our heritage."

The other category winners were Bolsover Castle among English Heritage properties, Fountains Abbey among those belonging to the National Trust, Culzean Castle

for Scotland, and Hampton Court among the historic royal palaces.

The site for Warwick Castle was selected and fortified by William the Conqueror in 1068. Over the centuries the castle was home to the Earls of Warwick, who played a key role in the Wars of the Roses, the Hundred Years War and the English Civil War.

Today its commanding battlements and towers, set in 60 acres of grounds and gardens landscaped by Capability Brown, offer a year-round programme of events, including Kingmaker's Feast, at which visitors enjoy a 16th-century dinner.

The castle's newest medieval attraction, a presentation based on scenes from the household of Warwick (the Kingmaker in 1471), enables visitors to experience the sights, sounds and smells of preparations for battle during the Wars of the Roses, while another wing recreates a Victorian house party as hosted by Daisy Warwick in 1898.

Dixons

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LEMMINGS Was £19.99 £9.99 SAVE £10	PHILIPS 470 CD-I ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM WITH HOT PAD AND PLAYER SPLITTER In-store Price £299.99 £249.99 SAVE £50
WHEN MET SALLY Was £19.99 £6.49 SAVE £13.50	FORREST GUMP Was £19.99 £9.99 SAVE £10
STAR TREK V Was £19.99 £9.99 SAVE £10	STAR TREK V Was £19.99 £9.99 SAVE £10
PRIMAL RAGE £17.99 SAVE £2	FIFA '96 The number of all soccer games in total! £39.99 SAVE £5
YOSHI'S ISLAND Jump, kick and bang with Yoshi! £44.99 SAVE £5	DONKEY KONG LAND 2 Donkey Kong and his wild-daddy King are taking on highway and reptilian kingdoms. £44.99 SAVE £5

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Police patrolmen catch their chief constable doing 90mph



Gunn: agreed to pay a fixed penalty of £40

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A CHIEF CONSTABLE was stopped by one of his own traffic patrols and reported for speeding at 90mph on the M11, police said yesterday.

Ben Gunn was noticed on Saturday morning by a patrol as he drove his own Rover 620 near Duxford, Cambridgeshire. Mr Gunn, off duty at the time, was speeding in a stretch with a 70mph speed limit.

The traffic crew put on their blue

lights, came up behind the Rover and ordered the Chief Constable to pull over. He promptly stopped and was told he would be reported.

Yesterday Mr Gunn, a police expert on DNA and counter-terrorism, apologised for the incident, which will be considered by his force's police authority. He has already paid a fixed penalty of £40 and will have three penalty points put on his licence.

In a statement he said: "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration resulted in me exceed-

ing the speed limit. I was correctly reported for the offence."

Ed Murphy, a Labour councillor who serves on the police authority, said the incident had to be kept in proportion. Mr Murphy said: "My personal opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position, although it's a matter for the police authority and we will give the incident serious consideration."

Mr Murphy said: "It's an unfortunate incident, but it does clearly demonstrate that the police officers in Cambridgeshire are acting with-

out favour and carrying out their duties diligently. No doubt everyone learns their lesson when they get a few endorsement points and a fine."

The decision to give Mr Gunn a fixed penalty notice was taken on the spot by one of the constables from the traffic car. Under the penalty notice, the Chief Constable had 28 days to pay the fine or go to court and challenge it.

Cambridgeshire police said officers had a number of choices when stopping a speeding driver. They would look at the speed involved,

the type of road and speed limit. They could simply talk to a driver, deliver a formal caution or issue a fixed penalty notice. If the offence was regarded as severe, officers could give the driver a summons to go to court.

Mr Gunn, 52, was appointed Chief Constable on January 1, 1994, after serving as Deputy Chief Constable since November 1991. He has been a policeman since 1963 when he joined the Metropolitan force. In the early 1970s he served as personal protection officer to Robert Carr,

who was then Home Secretary in the Heath Government, and spent 26 years with Special Branch, where he dealt in counter-terrorism.

Mr Gunn is the second chief constable to be caught by his own men. In February 1994 Keith Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, was seen driving at 80mph in a 50mph stretch of the M1 at Kirby Muxloe. It was the first day of a campaign by his force against speeding drivers. He was fined £350 and suspended from driving for seven days.

Drugs group urges resignation over 'safe Ecstasy' row

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SCOTLAND'S most senior social work director has been called upon to resign by drug rehabilitation workers outraged at her remark that the illegal drug Ecstasy is safer than aspirin.

Mary Hartnoll, 56, director of social work for Glasgow, the city with the highest number of drug-related deaths in Scotland, said Ecstasy was "relatively safe" and the risk of dying from a normal dose of aspirin was "very much greater" than dying from Ecstasy.

Miss Hartnoll's claims were made in an internal memo to John Anderson, chief executive of Glasgow City Council, in response to a tough approach to drugs by the council's licensing board. The council, which came into existence on April 1, is trying to formulate a unified policy on drug abuse.

Miss Hartnoll's views, which directly contradict those of the licensing board chairman, James Coleman, are likely to make a common policy for the city impossible, where around 100 people a year die from drug-related



Hartnoll: said Ecstasy was safer than aspirin

causes. Miss Hartnoll said the campaign following the death of Leah Betts, who died after taking Ecstasy on her 18th birthday, used fear as a means of deterring young people from taking drugs but had poor results.

"It does not accord with young people's own definition of their own drug using behaviour, which in the great majority of cases is a reasonably pleasurable experience. The irony is that Ecstasy for exam-

ple is a relatively safe drug — the risk of death has been calculated at one in 6.8 million — (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater) and young people tend to know this," Miss Hartnoll wrote in her memo.

Paul Betts, the father of Leah, said her remarks were "totally irresponsible". He said American research showed that Ecstasy caused permanent and irreversible brain damage.

David Bryce, director of the Calton Athletic Recovery programme in Glasgow which runs rehabilitation courses, said: "Ecstasy kills and it kills now. People who try Ecstasy build up a tolerance to it and they start using other drugs. Then they stop using Ecstasy and start injecting heroin."

"We are dealing with these realities every day. I'm sick to the back teeth of people who are meant to be well-informed coming out with this sort of rubbish."

Mr Coleman said Miss Hartnoll's remarks "liew in the face" of everything the board was trying to do. "The information we have is that the Ecstasy coming into Glasgow is far from pure. There is everything and anything in it."

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said yesterday: "There is no such thing as a risk-free drug. The misuse of any drug can cause serious harm or lasting damage and even death."

Miss Hartnoll was unavailable for comment yesterday but her views have been defended by some professionals. Dr John Marks, a consultant psychiatrist from Manchester, said her argument was responsible, intelligent, and true.

□ Last year in Britain, three teenagers died after taking Ecstasy, which is used by an estimated 500,000 people each weekend. Alcohol and tobacco-related deaths were 25,000 and 110,000 respectively.



Scientists hope the overweight mice will help them to identify the human fat gene

Tubby rodents hold clue to obesity of mice and men

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

RESEARCHERS have isolated the gene that makes a breed of mice called tubby put on weight in middle age. The discovery could have wider implications, as this pattern of increasing weight is a familiar consequence of human ageing.

Tubby mice were discovered by accident in 1977, when a random mutation in a strain of laboratory mice created animals which appeared normal when young but gradually put on weight later — though without apparently overeating.

The pattern, says Dr Patsy Nishina of The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor,

Maine, "strongly resembles the late-onset obesity seen in the human population".

Dr Nishina and colleagues have pinned down the genetic flaw that causes the mice to become fat, develop diabetes and suffer eyesight and hearing loss. The gene responsible is mouse chromosome 7, and Dr Nishina and her team have shown that it consists of a single "mis-pelling" in the sequence of the DNA in the gene.

The result is to produce a protein with a slightly different structure, which interferes with the complex biochemical signals that control appetite and the way in which food is metabolised.

"This is an important step for us toward identifying the

defects in tubby mice" Dr Nishina said. "We hope that this will also lead to the discovery of human genes involved in obesity".

The research, published in *Nature*, was carried out in cooperation with Sequana Therapeutics, of La Jolla, California, and the team has applied for a patent. Sequana plans to use the *tub* gene, or other genes in its molecular pathway, as potential targets for drug discovery.

Human obesity is caused by a number of factors, of which a genetic predisposition is only one. But this discovery "opens an avenue to obesity we didn't have" says Dr Jürgen Naggart, one of the research team.

Heckler jailed for attack on Ashdown

By ADRIAN LEE

A DRUNKEN heckler who attacked Paddy Ashdown with a knife during a walkabout was jailed for a year yesterday. Christopher Mason, 51, unexpectedly changed his plea at Taunton Crown Court and admitted assault.

The Liberal Democrat leader and a friend, the Rev Mark Ellis, had been confronted by Mason in Yeovil, Somerset, as they were on a fact-finding tour of the streets to investigate incidents of racism.

Mr Ashdown, 54, the town's MP, had been due to give evidence against his attacker but the change of plea spared him another appearance in the witness box. At Mason's committal hearing in February he had described the assault.

Charles Whitby, QC, the Recorder, told Mason that the knife attack was "dangerous, reckless and wicked". Mason, who had 24 previous court appearances, admitted affray and using or threatening unlawful violence.

Martin Meeke, for the prosecution, said Mason was extremely drunk when he approached the two men and later produced a flick-knife with a 4in blade. He tried to knee Mr Ashdown in the groin, then lashed out with the knife towards Mr Ashdown's neck. The MP parried the blow and two special police constables, who saw the attack from a pub, arrested Mason.

Neil Ford, for Mason, said there were no racial overtones in the attack and there had been no intention to injure. It was carried out as an act of "drunken bravado". Mason, from Yeovil, had been drunk, he said, but while in Dorchester prison for the past four months had sought help from Alcoholics Anonymous.

At the time of the attack, Avon and Somerset police said Yeovil was suffering an increase in rowdiness, blaming a minority who were intent on causing trouble. Closed-circuit television cameras are due to be installed at a cost of £70,000.



Imtiaz open verdict recorded by coroner

Boy killed himself to become Lion King

By KATE ALDERSON

A BOY who hanged himself from a tree was obsessed with the Disney film *The Lion King*, an inquest was told yesterday. Imitiaz Ahmed, 14, left a note saying he was going to die because he wanted to become a Lion King.

Imtiaz was found hanging from a tree near his home in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in November last year. John Wain, the coroner at Newcastle-under-Lyme, recorded an open verdict but said he was satisfied the boy had hanged himself.

The note found in Imitiaz's pocket was read out at the hearing. "I'm going to die because I want to be a Lion King. Mum and Dad, please put the Lion King film in my grave with me please."

In the film the Lion King dies and returns in the form of a vision seen by his son.

The coroner said he had watched *The Lion King* on video four times and the case had caused him a great deal of personal heartache. "I am satisfied that he physically hanged himself," he said. "But the problem was his state of mind. Did he intend the consequence of his act?"

He added: "Was it his wish to bring about a metamorphosis, or physical change or rebirth so that he was still Imitiaz Ahmed and the Lion King?"

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Loss of tax relief on saving plans a blow to boarding schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BOARDING schools suffered another blow to pupil numbers yesterday when the Inland Revenue confirmed that thousands of parents are to lose tax concessions on money set aside to pay for their children's education.

From next April, fee plans run by educational trusts will no longer qualify for tax relief, adding hundreds of pounds a year to many savers' costs. The Inland Revenue made the change after the Charity Commission decided that the trusts should be removed from its register.

Up to 15,000 parents use fee plans, which cover about one in 20 children in independent schools. Most are in boarding schools, which have been particularly hard hit by falling numbers.

There was a 4 per cent decline in the number of boarders last year, continuing a long downward trend since records began in 1982, and figures to be released later this

month are expected to show another drop. The surprise extra tax burden could hasten the decline.

David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said the tax changes would affect boarding disproportionately because long-term savers tended to use those schools.

Under fee plans, capital is invested in trusts, allowing interest to build up before parents have to start paying fees. Since 1999, the trusts have claimed back tax paid on the interest and reimbursed savers.

Many parents or grandparents start fee plans as soon as a child is born. Those who have saved for longest will be hardest hit by the loss of tax relief because of the amount of interest they have accumulated.

Trusts are preparing appeals against the ruling. John Lamb, a spokesman for the Sun Life Educational Trust,

said: "We find the change inexplicable. There has been no change in the way we operate, and the Inland Revenue has never raised an objection in more than 30 years."

An Inland Revenue spokesman said it had taken its lead from the Charity Commission, which recently conducted an inquiry into such schemes and has decided they should not have charitable status.

Hugh Rogers, a Charity Commission spokesman, said it had looked at school fees payment plans and decided they did not fit in with "today's idea of what is charitable. The benefit from them flows not to the public but to private individuals."

Michael Kirk, secretary of the Boarding Schools' Association, said: "I hope this will not be a major obstacle, but it will be another problem for some of our parents who are trying to find the money for independent schools."



Lucy Needham at Heathrow yesterday. The cause of her illness is unknown

Sick tennis player flies home from India

By LIN JENKINS

THE tennis player taken ill aboard a jumbo jet which was forced to divert to India returned home yesterday. Lucy Needham, 22, hugged and kissed her mother Jill and stepfather John Hobbs when they met her at Heathrow, three days after she should have returned from playing in two tournaments in Java.

She had collapsed an hour after the aircraft left Kuala Lumpur. Pauline Robinson, a nurse, eased Miss Needham's convulsions by holding her head in a cushion cover filled with ice. Tests in India failed to find a cause for the illness.

Miss Needham, who is ranked 30 in Britain, looked pale and tired yesterday. Mr Hobbs, of Newton, Cambridgeshire, said: "We are most concerned about her condition. She has only just gathered the strength to make the flight back to Britain."

Thugs force army cadets to retreat from Warsop HQ

By PAUL WILKINSON AND MICHAEL EVANS

A GROUP of boy soldiers who have suffered two years of vandalism, harassment, street ambushes and abuse have finally been forced to abandon their Army Cadet Force premises.

The persistent victimisation of the cadets aged 13 to 18 by "young thugs" in the Nottinghamshire town of Warsop — and highlighted at other cadet force units in the country — was described yesterday by a senior Army officer as a deliberate attempt to "destroy something which is decent and worthwhile".

The cadets at Warsop are now looking for new premises after their headquarters hut on the outskirts of the town was burnt down by vandals. Colonel Robin Drummond, deputy secretary of the East Midlands Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserves Association which embraces the Army Cadet Force, said the thugs who had driven the cadets from their headquarters appeared to be "beyond the law".

He said: "They don't know right from wrong. They have no respect for other people's property, it's as if they come from another world." Another cadet headquarters hut was burnt down at Harworth in

north Nottinghamshire a few months ago.

Colonel Drummond said: "Vandalism is a continuing scourge. The thugs responsible seem to regard cadets as their enemy. They resent these young lads for having fun and enjoying a real challenge."

He said that the cadets were determined to carry on and hoped to lease new headquarters in the centre of town.

Their previous detachment commander, Under Officer Paula Pingree, left after a scaffolding pole was rammed through the side of the hut and just missed her head. She was badly hurt. Later, after her car windscreen was shattered, she was transferred.

She was replaced by Sergeant-Major John Colclough, who finally decided the cadets had to move. He said yesterday: "For two years the cadets have run the gauntlet of violence and crime from a hardcore of around 20 to 30 local youths. Cadets have been regularly threatened with beatings. Vandalism has been rife and there have been three arson attacks in the last month alone."

A number of juveniles are facing charges connected with attacks on the cadets and their building.

2,500 TICKETS TO BE WON FOR THE NEW WOODY ALLEN FILM



Hooked: Linda, played by Mira Sorvino — winner of the Oscar for the best supporting actress — above right, lures Lenny (Woody Allen) away from his marriage to upwardly-mobile Amanda (Helena Bonham Carter)

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Mighty Aphrodite goes on general release on April 26 (it opens in London this weekend) and The Times has 1,250 pairs of tickets to give away for screenings on April 21. For your chance to win two tickets, call the number shown after the cinema you wish to attend with the answer to the question below before midnight tomorrow.

Who won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in Mighty Aphrodite?

- a) Helena Bonham Carter b) Mira Sorvino c) Claire Bloom
- SOUTH Odeon, Kingswell, West St, Brighton, 11am, 0891 771 202; Harbour Lights, Ocean Village, Southampton, Noon, 0891 771 203; The Watershed, 1 Canon's Road, Bristol, 11am, 0891 771 204.
- EAST ANGLIA Warner, Grafton Centre, East Rd, Cambridge, Noon, 0891 771 205. MIDLANDS Odeon, New St, Birmingham, 11am, 0891 771 206; Odeon, Angel Row, Nottingham, 11am, 0891 771 207.
- WALES Odeon, Station Terr, Cardiff, 11am, 0891 771 208.
- NORTH Odeon, The Headrow, Leeds, 11am, 0891 771 209; Odeon, London Rd, Liverpool, 11am, 0891 771 210; Odeon, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, 11am, 0891 771 211; Comarous Cinema, Oxford St, Manchester, 11am, 0891 771 212; Warner, Manors, New Bridge St, Newcastle, 10.30am, 0891 771 213.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at other times

SEE THE FILM REVIEW ON PAGE 33

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French face culinary invasion

Conran plans to give Parisians food for thought

By Robin Young and Adam Sage

TWO of London's most successful restaurateurs are planning to teach the French a lesson in modern gastronomy by opening showcase British restaurants in the French capital.

Sir Terence Conran, the creator of Mezzo, Quaglino's and Le Pont de la Tour in London, and Oliver Peyton, the developer of the Atlantic Bar and Grill and Coast, have both been viewing properties in Paris. Mr Peyton is on the point of winning the race to secure the first bridgehead.

Sarah Canet, assistant to Mr Peyton, said yesterday: "We are in the final stages of negotiation for a site for a large restaurant. It will be very exciting. We hope to take Paris by storm."

French restaurateurs, not unnaturally, were sceptical about the challenge, but Sir Terence said: "Paris is ready to be taught some lessons. The French idea still tends to be that there is only one way to run a big brasserie and that is to fit it out with *fin de siècle* decor. I appreciate that look, where it is genuine, but I would certainly not want to go on recreating it for ever more."

Michel Perrochon, owner of the celebrated Brasserie Lipp in St Germain des Prés, said there might be a market for small British restaurants, but not for the large international establishments for which Mr Peyton and Sir Terence were famed. He said: "There is a French proverb that says 'Good at everything, good for nothing'. Whenever I see a restaurant offering cuisine from different parts of the world, I do not do there because I know it will be no good. Any restaurants which have tried to provide global food have been total failures in Paris." Undaunted, Sir Terence confirmed that, like Mr Peyton, he had looked at one large site in the Marais district. Although it was unsuitable, he said: "I would not be scared of opening in Paris. The city is in the depths of recession and property prices are still going down. That can be the right time to strike and a restaurant near the Madeleine would be ideal. The secret of being financially successful is to find a location where there is both lunchtime and evening business."

Ms Canet would not disclose where Mr Peyton's restaurant would be but said it would be similar to the 160-seat Atlantic Bar and Grill, off Piccadilly Circus, which has been described as "an Art Deco air raid shelter". Sir

TWO CITIES

Whereas Paris has 86 Michelin-starred restaurants (five with three stars, 23 with two and 58 with one), London has only 20 (three with three stars, two with two and 15 with one). Paris's most popular large restaurants serve a time-honoured repertoire of traditional brasserie classics, such as *coq au vin* and *pot au feu*, usually in period surroundings. Waiters are middle-aged or elderly and frequently short-tempered. London's modern restaurants by contrast go for sweeping staircases, mirrors and sharp design. The cooking is cosmopolitan, open to transatlantic and oriental influences, and often involves novel juxtapositions of ingredients. Staff are young, enthusiastic and frequently antipodean.

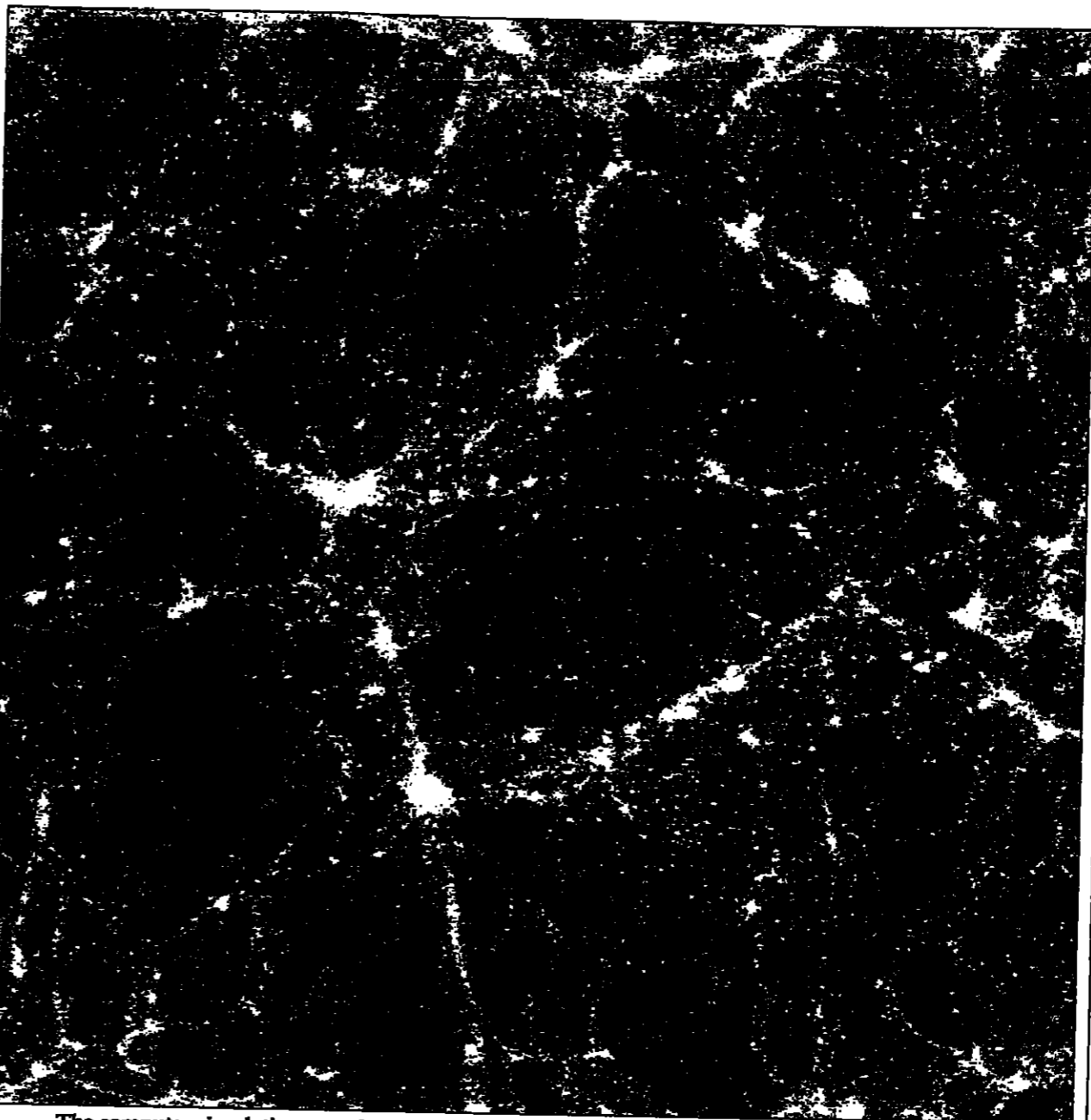
Terence, who has a Conran shop in Paris, said the British could show the French a thing or two about restaurant design. He said: "If we find the right site we will use our own design team as we did with Mezzo and Quaglino's. We are opening in Glasgow next year, so why not Paris?"

Robert Grace, an Australian architect who worked for Mr Peyton on Coast, said yesterday: "Both Terence Conran and Oliver Peyton felt that Paris was ripe for the contemporary, international style of restaurant which is so successful in London."

A third London restaurateur who looked at the site in the Marais, but also rejected it, confirmed that he too would still be looking for further opportunities in the French capital. Alan Yau of the hugely successful Wagamama Japanese noodle bars in Bloomsbury and Soho, London, said: "We will be looking again in Paris soon, but for Wagamama we need something more proletarian than the site we saw in the Marais."

Hitherto the best known British restaurant in Paris has been Bertie's, the brainchild of Albert Roux, but that serves tiny fluctuations in energy in the microwave radiation left over from the Big Bang, which have been detected by satellite and, more recently, by ground-based observations. These fluctuations are a consequence of quantum theory and emerged as the embryo Universe expanded at enormous speed in the first fraction of a second.

Ripples grow by attracting and accreting matter. Eventually gas and particles of



The computer simulation contains 17 million particles, allowing individual galaxies to be resolved

History of the Universe (take II)

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ASTRONOMERS have re-run the history of the Universe in a computer simulation. They showed how tiny fluctuations in energy in the split second after the Big Bang grew into concentrations of matter — the stars and galaxies — amid vast empty regions of space.

conjunction of British, Canadian and German laboratories involved.

The simulation starts with the tiny "ripples" in the microwave radiation left over from the Big Bang, which have been detected by satellite and, more recently, by ground-based observations. These fluctuations are a consequence of quantum theory and emerged as the embryo Universe expanded at enormous speed in the first fraction of a second.

Ripples grow by attracting and accreting matter. Eventually gas and particles of

invisible dark matter condense out and form spinning discs that evolve into galaxies.

The illustration shows the distribution of dark matter in an area of the Universe about a billion light years square. The bright areas are the seeds of today's galaxies and the very smallest structures — some 20,000 times smaller than the entire image — are galaxies roughly the size of the Milky Way.

Professor Frenk says that the simulations probably used more computing power than any undertaking in the history of science, with the

exception of defence work. It was possible only because of the development of parallel computers able to carry out billions of arithmetic operations per second.

The team responsible, called the Virgo consortium, is based in Durham and includes astronomers from Sussex, Oxford, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Toronto and the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Munich. They used a Cray-T3D supercomputer in Edinburgh, the largest in Europe, and the second largest, which is in Germany.

'No touch' code for driving instructors

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

DRIVING instructors will be forbidden from making physical contact with pupils except to shake hands or to take the wheel during an emergency under a code of conduct being drawn up by the Driving Standards Agency.

The "no touching" rule aims to restore the reputation of a profession tarnished by a string of high-profile cases of sexual harassment by rogue instructors of women learner drivers.

But the draft code, which would be voluntary for the 33,000 registered instructors, has already been condemned as excessive and unnecessary by driving instructors' professional bodies. Peter Harvey, chairman of the Motor Schools Association, which represents about 8,000 instructors, said: "In every industry there are a few bad ones who always give the good ones a bad name. No driving instructor worth his or her salt is going to set out to deliberately touch a pupil."

Male driving instructors have long been saddled with a sexually aggressive image. A survey in the late 1980s found that one in five had made a pass at a woman pupil.

A note to the draft code advises instructors that "physical contact can be misconstrued" and suggests that "if it is absolutely necessary to place a hand on the pupil's on the steering column or gear lever, the instructor should explain in advance why this is necessary and ask if the pupil objects". It adds: "If they do not, the contact should be kept to a minimum."

Brian Austin, the agency's chief registrar of driving instructors, defended the proposed code as representing "an ordinary, decent and honest way of doing business".

Writing in the agency's newsletter *Despatch*, he warned that without it "any claim that the industry may have to be regarded as professional would be seen to be built on sand".

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Archbishop of Canterbury warns synod that Church is always 'one generation away from extinction'

Report urges elders to close cultural gap with youth

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND LIN JENKINS

THE decline in church attendance among young people seems to be accelerating, according to the Bishop of Carlisle, who chaired the working party which is to tell the General Synod that youth attendance has dropped dramatically in seven years.

The Rt Rev Ian Harland, describing the picture as "bleak", said it was partly a result of a general cultural change which saw young people abandoning many organisations. He said the failure to keep the young in congregations was largely due to the cultural gap between the Church and its traditions and the young people of today. "It is a matter of getting to the point where we can meet and explore common ground."

While encouraging alternative forms of service, he urged that they be properly supervised to avoid such scandals as the Nine O'Clock Service and its unacceptable practices.

"What went wrong in Sheffield was a lack of accountability by people probably given too much freedom and a lack of supervision. It ran out of control. But the last thing we want is for what happened in Sheffield to prevent these kind



Bishop Harland: sees the outlook as bleak

of initiatives taking place." The report's recommendations to the synod include spending more money. Young people account for a third of the population but not a third of church budgets.

It says attempts should be made to develop and promote innovative forms of worship, but within a strict framework of support and accountability. Churches should be able to find out how other successful schemes are run and seek help from those trained in setting them up and running them.

Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, says in

the foreword to the report that the Church is always "one generation away from extinction". "We are called upon, as a Church, to proclaim the faith 'afresh' in each generation. My hope is that this report will stimulate us to do precisely that, so that many thousands of young people may come to find, as I did over 40 years ago, that excitement of a living relationship with Christ."

Martha Middlemiss, a 17-year-old from the Vale of Evesham who serves on her local parochial church council and has twice attended synod, said there was no single solution to the problem. "A lot of attempts to provide something for the young stop at wheeling out a guitar. Young people want different things."

The Bishop of Carlisle is a family man who has had an abiding interest in the issues facing young people for many years. He has led youth camps and pilgrimages throughout his ministry. Of his four children, aged 21 to 27 and unmarried, only the eldest is a regular churchgoer. The others attend church occasionally. Two are teachers, one is a chef and the youngest a secretary.

Leading article, page 19



The days when children attended Sunday classes to receive instruction in the Catechism are long passed

Raikes's progress eroded by secular fun factor

By ALAN HAMILTON

HAULING children off the streets and into church has exercised the minds of the well-intentioned at least since the late 18th century when Robert Raikes, a Gloucester newspaper publisher, instituted the Sunday School movement.

Raikes feared that the youth of the Industrial Revolution, who toiled in factories for six days each week, would turn to a life of crime if left

uneducated in the ways of righteousness on the Sabbath. He opened his first Sunday school in 1780; by the time of his death in 1811, a reported 500,000 children were attending Sunday classes to receive instruction in the Catechism and in basic literacy.

Sunday schools spread through the Anglican, Presbyterian and nonconformist communities as the 19th century progressed. Children of a far more recent generation have memories of Sundays

spent on the hard chairs of a church hall crayoning pictures of Noah's Ark.

Five years ago the Church of England produced a report, *All God's Children*, which concluded in essence that traditional Sunday schools had all but had their day. An entire secular life had woken up to Sunday as a day of rest from work, and therefore a day of fun. The report's authors calculated that in 1991 some 14 per cent of those aged 15 and under in England,

nearly one million children, were involved in some kind of church-related activity on a Sunday. They recognised a sharply declining trend, and suggested all manner of clubs, sports evenings and other non-Sunday treats to lure the young back into the fold.

Although there is some evidence that individual churches have found success yesterday's report suggests that the Anglican community is losing its battle to retain new customers.

Declining appeal is felt by all faiths

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church of England and the Jewish community are the first religious bodies to produce evidence of what is a widespread trend.

Monsignor Kieran Conry, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, said the loss of young people was being felt in his as in all the churches, although central figures had not been collated to establish the scale of the decline.

The Catholic Church's Birmingham diocese leads the field in working with young people, employing four priests and four lay members in this area. For 50 years, a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon has run week-long courses for teenagers and parish groups visit at weekends. The centre has proved so successful that in July the diocese is opening another near Alton Towers.

Father John Seenev, who runs the centre, said: "Young people find the Church very insignificant in their lives. Society does not see spiritual values as central to life, and maybe the church environment is not attractive to them. But I think there is a great hunger among young people for God, and for something deeper."

"Music is very important here, and the young people go home singing songs and hymns."

Britain's 300,000-strong Jewish community is also fighting the loss of its youngsters on a tide of secularisation and assimilation. Nearly half of Anglo-Jewish men aged under 30 have a non-Jewish partner, according to the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, and nearly half of under-35s do not belong to a synagogue.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, launched *Jewish Continuity*, a body which aims to keep young people wedded to the Jewish faith with a series of educational and other programmes.

Most synagogues have classes where youngsters are taught Hebrew and the reasons behind ancient Jewish traditions. Increasing numbers of synagogues of all traditions are holding more social events and special services for youngsters.

The Methodist Church, which has an active core membership of people under 26, last year accepted a radical charter for change. The young people themselves put forward *Charter 96*, which called for churches to develop the use of audio, video, drama, visual aids and a full range of music in worship. "Make the message relevant," it said.

Young approach that works well

Examples of successful initiatives among young people include:

Alternative worship: with names like *The Late Service*, *Be Real*, *Wild Hope* and *Cooking Something Different*, these services can no longer be categorised as raves in the nave. They feature electronic and pop music, multicoloured screens, humour, storytelling, drama, dance, film and video. Most are phenomenally successful but Sheffield's Nine O'Clock Service was an example of how they can go horribly wrong without accountable leadership.

The Rave in the Nave: an ecumenical event which takes place annually in Ely Cathedral on a June Friday night, attracting at least 1,000 people. The programme has included live bands on a stage under the cathedral's octagon, a

fashion show, non-alcoholic bar, puppet theatre and fringe music. The climax comes at midnight with an hour of alternative worship.

The Hit Squad: a group of young people aged 18-plus who visit different parishes each weekend and work with local youngsters to organise that Sunday's worship, adding drama, dance, music and prayers.

The Greenbelt Arts Festival: Samantha Fox, born again convert and former Page 3 model, once performed at this August Bank Holiday Christian arts festival which attracts up to 25,000 people. Music and worship workshops in the York diocese: dozens of youngsters experiment with Christian worship and music.

Crusaders: Christian-based holidays with activities, sport and excursions.

Vicar recruits youth worker to turn the tide of apathy

By JOANNA BALE

IN 1975 Joanne McGregor joined the thriving youth club at her local church. She was 20 and had just moved to the area, but soon met dozens of friends her own age through the club, which they called the YPF, short for Young People's Fellowship.

About 25 people in their late teens and early twenties would meet every Saturday and Sunday night to play games, listen to music, have quizzes and Christian-based discussions. Now a 42-year-old mother, she said yesterday: "It was a really lively, active group and I loved it—I even met my husband there."

The club, based at St Cuthbert's Church in Wood Green, north London, disbanded five years ago through lack of interest and there is no youth club for the over-15s any longer.

Mrs McGregor, who ran the group in its last years, explained: "It was getting to the point where many of the members were in their late twenties and even in their thirties—the younger ones just weren't coming through."

The vicar at St Cuthbert's is determined to change that and has recruited a full-time youth worker. The Rev David Daley is preparing for Jeremy Squires, who is in his early twenties, to live in a purpose-built flat at his vicarage.

Mr Daley, 46, said: "We only have four or five people in the 15 to 20 age range who come to services, but you only have to look around the streets to see the need."

"In this area there are four council estates where there are young people who roam the streets getting themselves into trouble and I feel that the Church has an enormous role



The Rev David Daley and Alex, his daughter

to play in giving them hope. I hope a youth worker will bridge the gap."

Mr Daley, who has a congregation on average of 200 in his 3,000-strong parish, said: "The trend has been one of general decline in the numbers of young people coming to church, which seems to have started in the 1960s. Jeremy will hopefully reverse that trend here because he is young and understands where young people are coming from."

Alex, Mr Daley's 19-year-old daughter, said that being a young Christian was not considered "trendy" by most of her peers. "You sometimes feel that you are an oddball and you start doubting that

there is anything in it because so few of your friends share your beliefs, although God has always brought me back. The stereotypical church-goer is dull and boring so it is hardly surprising that young people are not interested. There is a really bad stigma attached to it."

Alex, who is studying Arts at Middlesex University, recently went to the Easter Spring Harvest Festival at Butlins in Minehead, which was attended by 4,000 young Christians. "This sort of event is in touch with young people's lives. They use film, video and dance to praise God and to teach. In this sense the Church is moving forward in a massive way."



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Opponents outraged by £584,000 handout for Gateshead's monumental creation

Lottery cash feeds anger over artist's steel angel

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to stop a massive sculpture being placed in a run-down area of Tyneside gathered momentum yesterday with news of a £584,000 grant from the National Lottery.

The idea of a 65ft-high flying steel angel with a 175ft wing span being sited on the outskirts of Gateshead has divided the community. Objectors

expressed outrage over the estimated cost last year, which was then £300,000. The overall budget has increased to almost £800,000.

The fact that the sculptor is Antony Gormley, a leading figure in the contemporary art world who won the 1994 Turner Prize, has done little to placate the objectors.

The "Stop the Statue" campaigners cannot understand how so much money can be spent on a sculpture and the surrounding landscaping when the casualty department of one of the area's main hospitals is being closed and when the community cannot afford to replace playground swings removed after they failed safety checks.

More than 4,500 residents had signed a petition against the statue, said Noël Rippeith, a Liberal Democrat who has led opposition to the scheme on Gateshead council. "And that was on just two Saturday mornings. People were actually queuing to sign it," Jonathan Wallis, a member of the council's arts and public



A photo-montage showing how Antony Gormley's angel sculpture will appear to drivers arriving in Gateshead on the Great North Road

places sub-committee, said: "It was the fastest rate of collection of any petition I've ever known. Normally, you've got to stop them and ask them."

Dr Wallis said: "The North East has the highest level of people purchasing lottery tickets. This is what we're getting in return. Is it really worth it?"

The lottery grant will be announced by the Arts Council today. A further £45,000 will come from Northern Arts and £150,000 from the European Regional Development Fund. The campaigners argue that the development fund should be used for job-creation

schemes and that council taxpayers will have to meet the maintenance costs. The sculpture will cost £350,000; the rest will be spent on landscaping.

Frank Hindle, another councillor, said: "If the Arts Council want it so much, why don't they put it up in London where they can have the dubious pleasure of seeing it every day. We don't want it."

Work has not yet started and the protesters doubt whether it will be ready in time to serve its original purpose as the centrepiece of the 1996 Year of the Visual Arts. They also fear the

sculpture will distract motorists on the A1 and Mr Hindle believes television reception might be disrupted.

Gateshead council said a model of the sculpture had provoked as many positive comments as negative ones.

"No one says it is boring. It stirs up strong feelings." Supporters see the angel as a symbol of peace that will attract an estimated 150,000 people a year to Gateshead. Gormley, born in 1950, said: "Art, particularly public art, is always a lightning rod for social disease. I think that, if you took a real poll, there

would probably be an unusually high percentage in favour and then a few people who have been inveigled by misinformation and political interests to complain."

He has received several letters of support. "They said how marvellous it was to have a bold and clear image with which Gateshead can be identified. It's always been in the shadow of Newcastle." He conceded that television reception at three blocks of flats might be affected but said a deflector would be fitted. A study in Scotland had concluded that roadside sculp-

tures increased alertness. He disputed that the £350,000 cost of the sculpture was high, explaining that it required complex structural engineering. A sculpture covering 4,000 sq ft needed to be properly anchored.

"Is it a lot? It is a very large object. You couldn't build a house 175ft high for this price. I don't think it's expensive. I'm afraid England is rather backward in these things, going over the old arguments of whether a school or a zebra crossing is of more use to the community than a piece of art."

Treasure hunters fined over pottery

Three treasure hunters who took ancient pottery from a protected prehistoric hill fort were fined £200 each yesterday by magistrates in Swindon.

The two men and a woman set out with a metal detector hoping to find Roman swords but instead took 37 broken pottery pieces from the site at Barbury Castle, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

Crystal Butler, 35, and Darryl Bowen, 31, of Swindon, and Jason Sergeant, 27, of Highworth, Wiltshire, admitted removing objects of archaeological interest without consent.

Surfing for all

Computer kiosks should be as accessible as public telephones to ensure that everyone, irrespective of age or income, can surf the Internet, the National Consumer Council says. Computer terminals should be provided at libraries, hospitals and community centres to make the information society inclusive rather than exclusive.

Appeals fail

A Bulgarian court yesterday rejected an appeal by two British lorry drivers convicted of drug trafficking, a legal official said. John Mills, 51, and Peter Hobbs, 42, were each sentenced to 7½ years in prison in February after authorities said they had discovered 44lb of heroin in their vehicles at the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

Unholy water row

A complaint from the Roman Catholic Church about mail-order advertisements for statues of the Virgin Mary in holy water has been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority. Charisearch of Islington, London, describing itself as the Lourdes Research Organisation, claimed that the statues would bring better prospects.

Rushdie on sale

The Indian Government has approved the sale of Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, eight months after a customs officer ordered the importers to suspend distribution. A character in the book is said to bear an unflattering resemblance to Bal Thackeray, the leader of the Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party.

Off the rails

A 25-tonne army vehicle toppled off a railway convoy at the official launch of a reopened line. The driver escaped unhurt when the Warrior rolled down an embankment after a loading problem. The 22-mile railway line previously served a quarry at Redmire, North Yorkshire, but has been restored for Caterick army base.

CONNECTION

Bristol regains its status as a city and county in the local government reorganisation which took effect this month (report, April 1).

Police cleared of blame over Asian riots in Bradford

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ASIAN family are to sue police for assault after an inquiry cleared officers of blame for the incident which sparked rioting and unrest in Bradford last summer.

Although the Police Complaints Authority found yesterday that allegations were based on rumour and were without foundation, the Iqbal family are to bring civil proceedings for damages against two constables from the West Yorkshire force who, they claim, assaulted four of them, including a baby girl, her mother and grandmother.

As news of the alleged assault and the arrest of four Asian youths spread on June 9, people in the largely Asian district of Manningham took to the streets, burning cars and property and causing damage estimated at £1 million. For the next two nights riot police and scores of young men were involved in an uneasy stand-off outside the police station where the four youths were detained.

The PCA said that after a nine-month investigation it had decided that no officer should be disciplined. However, one of the two constables involved in the alleged assault incident should receive advice and retraining.

John Cartwright, PCA dep-

uty chairman, said that despite a number of serious allegations against the officers, none had been substantiated. Of the 22 complaints made, eight were withdrawn when the claims came under detailed scrutiny.

Caroline Mitchell, one of the PCA inquiry team, said: "We know how perceptions of events can become distorted when a person is caught up in violence. With the exception of one officer who wrongly executed his power of arrest we have found no evidence of wrong-doing by any officer. In particular the medical evidence does not support the various allegations of assault."

Aurangzeb Iqbal, solicitor for the family who were allegedly attacked by police, said: "Civil proceedings will be issued against the police for damages. The claim will be formulated in the next few weeks and a writ will be issued. The claim will be against specific officers, but the police force will be the defendant."

Asian community leaders in Birmingham yesterday blamed intimidation and heavy-handed treatment by police over parking fines for disorder in the Alum Rock district on Tuesday night.



Gormley: denied that project was expensive

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Leeson: air stewardess

Lisa Leeson gets Virgin airline job

LISA LEESON, the wife of the jailed Barings trader Nick Leeson, is joining Richard Branson's airline Virgin Atlantic as a junior flight attendant, it was announced yesterday.

It is thought that the job will entitle Mrs Leeson, 27, to cheaper flights that will allow her to visit her husband, serving 6½ years in Singapore for fraud and forgery, more frequently.

Virgin said that her application to the airline had succeeded because of her "merits, personality and skills". Mrs Leeson, from West Kingsdown, Kent, has worked at a tearoom since returning from Singapore.

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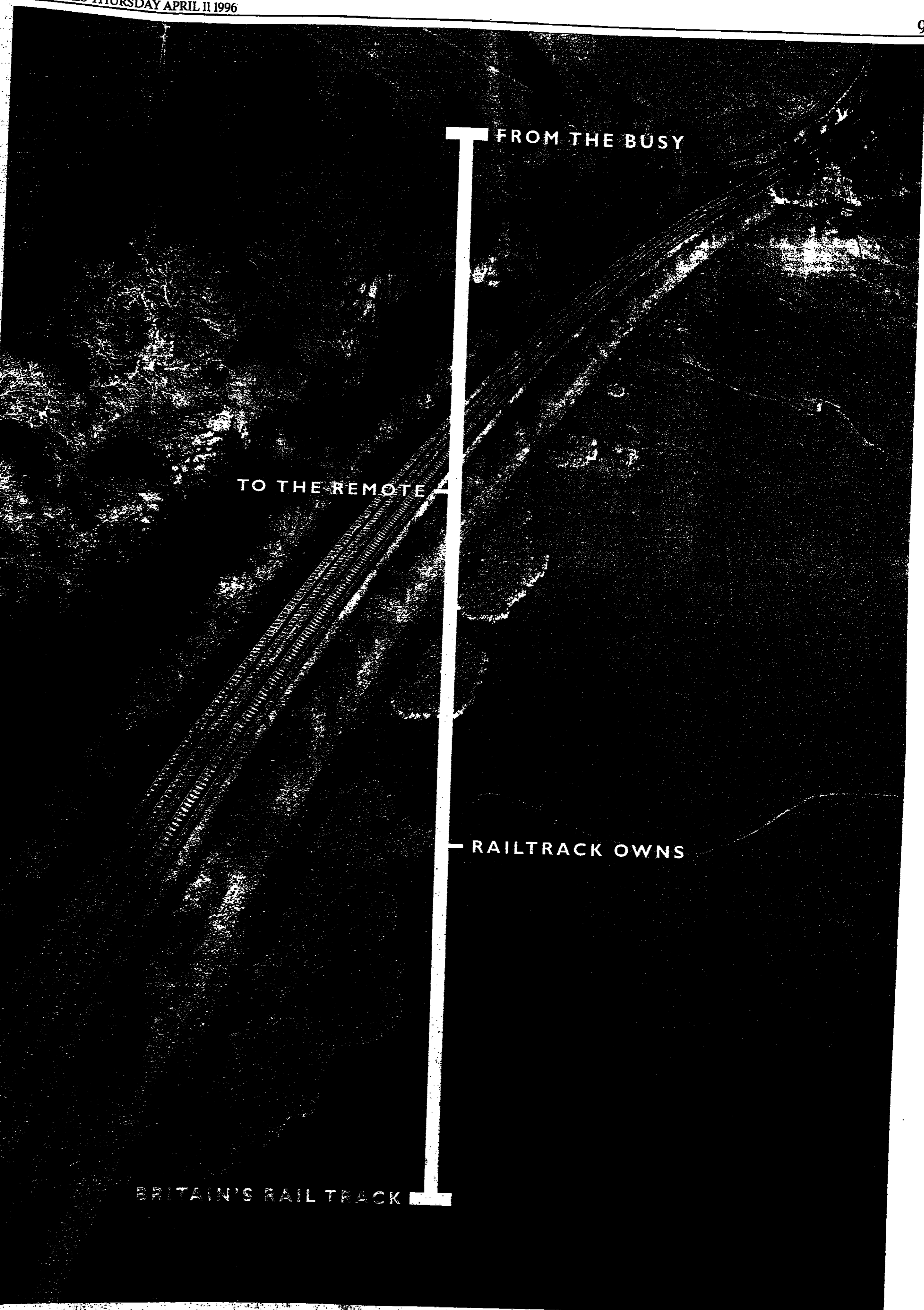
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Staffordshire South East: Government braces for thirty-fifth successive poll defeat

By-election takes Major to brink of minority rule

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the Conservatives won their surprise general election victory in 1992 party leaders knew that deaths were likely to whittle away their 21-seat overall majority. Few considered the possibility that defections would effectively wipe it out.

John Major might have expected to soldier on with a working majority until the last practical date for an election, May 1, 1997, despite the death of seven of his MPs since the election. But the prospect of minority government has become a reality because of the defections of Alan Howarth to Labour and Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats and Peter Thurnham's resignation of the Tory whip.

If, as expected, the Tories lose the Staffordshire South East by-election today, it will be the thirty-fifth successive defeat since their last by-election victory, in February 1989. Within a year of Mr Major's general-election triumph, questions were asked about his leadership when the party was crushed in the

Newbury by-election. Judith Chaplin, previously Mr Major's political secretary, had won the seat with a 22,000 majority at the general election. But she died in February 1993 and at the by-election the Liberal Democrats swept in by a margin of 12,300.

Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, one of the Tories' ten safest seats, died a week later. Robert Hayward, a former Tory MP and confidant of Mr Major, was picked to fight the seat. Mr Hayward, a psephologist whose figures were used by Conservative Central Office in the run-up to the 1992 election, badly miscalculated in Christchurch. The Tories' 23,000 majority vanished and Diana Maddock took the seat for the Liberal Democrats with a 16,433 majority on a 35 per cent swing.

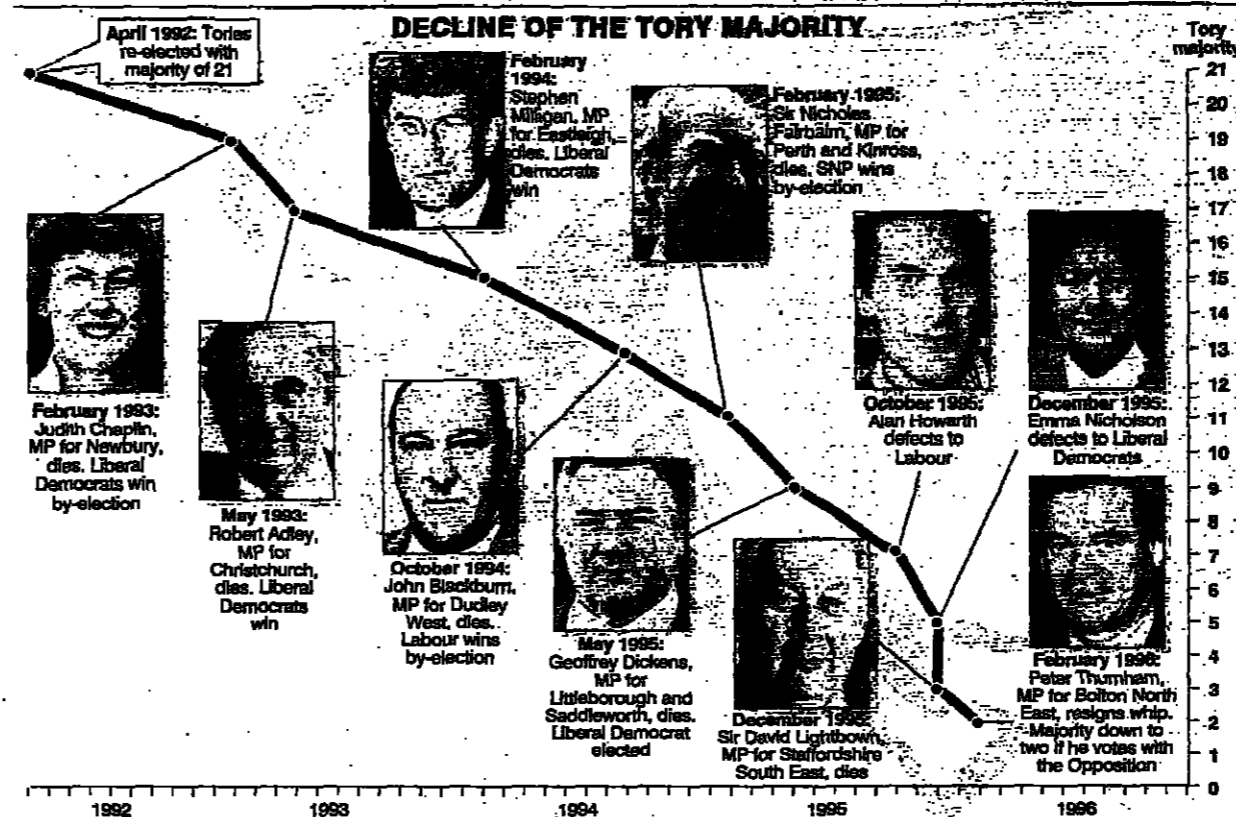
Worse was to come. Stephen Milligan, one of the brightest members of the 1992 intake, was found dead in his London home, dressed in suspenders and stockings. His death was at the peak of the back-to-basics crisis. His 17,700 major-

ity in, Eastleigh, Hampshire, was overturned by the Liberal Democrats' David Chidgey, who gained a 9,239 majority.

The death in October 1994 of Dr John Blackburn, Tory MP for Dudley West, gave the new Labour leader, Tony Blair, a chance to test his electoral appeal. He was not disappointed. His party captured the seat on December 10 with a 20,000 majority. The 29 per cent swing was the biggest from Tory to Labour since 1935. The victory, in the crucial West Midlands election battleground, finished a dismal year for Mr Major.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the colourful former Solicitor-General for Scotland, died in February 1995 after a long illness. His majority in Perth had been a vulnerable 2,094 and the Scottish National Party prevailed over Labour with a 7,000 majority while the Conservatives trailed in third.

Geoffrey Dickens, one of the most outspoken MPs, died after a long illness in the July. His 6,200 majority in Little-



borough and Saddleworth disappeared with a 12 per cent swing to the Liberal Democrats. The Tories were once again pushed into third.

The most telling blows to Mr Major's authority came in October 1995 when Alan Howarth crossed the floor to Labour, enraging party officials in his Stratford-on-Avon constituency where he had a 22,900 majority. Emma Nicholson, one of the most high-profile women in the Commons, dismayed the Tory

high command when she moved to the Liberal Democrats in December.

The defections dealt another shattering end-of-year blow to the Prime Minister. His misery was compounded soon after with the death of Sir David Lightbown, the Staffordshire South East MP. In February this year Peter Thurnham, the member for Bolton North East, resigned the Tory whip, reducing the Tory majority to two. Mr Thurnham, who has a major-

ity of 185, was aggrieved at being overlooked for a safer seat.

Using standard mortality tables and the age and profile of Tory MPs, up to four more are expected to die this year. Research by the actuaries Lane, Clark and Peacock has indicated that there are likely to be two further deaths by mid-summer. With the Tory by-election record, the party could find itself with a minority of three by the end of the summer recess. Mr Major

can, however, draw comfort from the experience of the 1974-79 Labour Government, which lost its majority of three in 1976. The Government was defeated no fewer than 42 times before the loss of a vote of confidence sealed the fate of the Callaghan administration in 1979.

General election 1992: D.L. Lightbown (C) 29,180; B. Jenkins (Lab) 21,988; N. Penlington (Lib Dem) 5,540; majority 7,192.

Seminars on Labour tax plans ridiculed

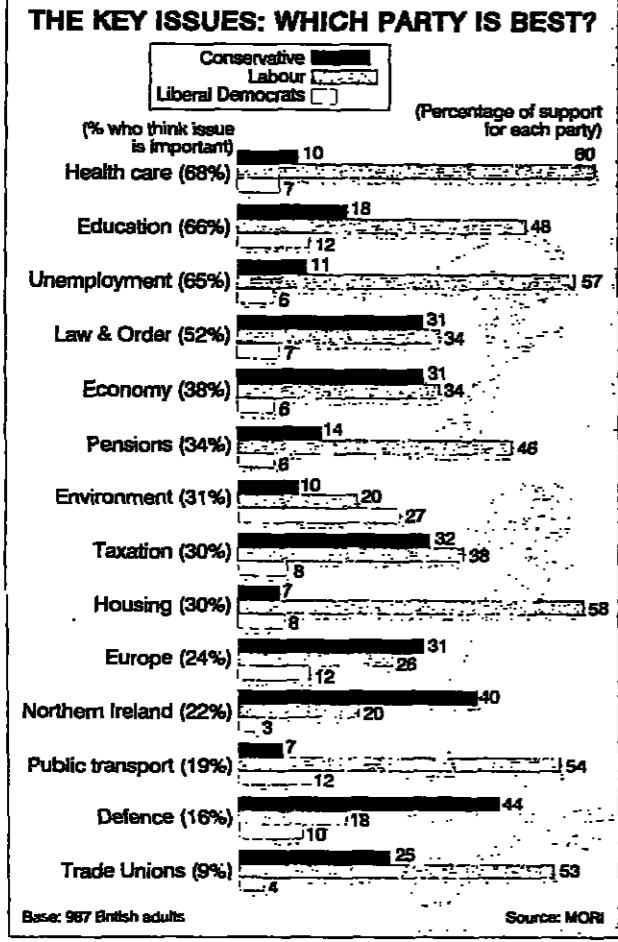
BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday criticised business seminars which speculated about Labour's tax plans and said they were "a waste of money".

The accountancy firm KPMG is arranging seminars to brief businessmen on possible tax increases under a Labour Government. A company study suggests that Labour might introduce a top rate of tax of 60 per cent and that people who earn more than £40,000 a year would have less disposable income under Labour.

Senior Labour figures are bracing themselves for a wave of similar business briefings. Mr Brown said: "People who write these studies have no knowledge of our tax plans and they are making money speculating about them. It is not a good use of businessmen's money to go to a company organising seminars which has no knowledge of Labour's tax plans."

He refused, however, to rule out tax rises under a Labour Government. "Tax proposals will be announced in our manifesto," he said. "We will look at the economic situation as it develops."



Tories trail on main issues for general election

BY PETER RIDDELL

LABOUR has the best policies on ten of the 14 most important issues for the next general election, according to a MORI poll for The Times.

The poll shows that Labour is well ahead on economic and social issues, which voters regard as most important for their votes. The Tories are ahead only on foreign policy questions such as Europe and defence, which are placed lower down the list.

People were shown a list of issues and asked which they regarded as most important for their votes. Health care is mentioned by 68 per cent, followed by education and unemployment, a couple of points behind. Law and order is mentioned by over 50 per cent, the economy by nearly 40 per cent and pensions by 34 per cent. Europe comes tenth, regarded as important in deciding votes by less than 25 per cent of those interviewed. Trade unions come bottom of the list, mentioned by less than 10 per cent.

Of the issues singled out by people as being the most important - health, education and unemployment - Labour has a huge lead over the Tories as the party with the best policies. The gap is much narrower on law and order, the economy and taxation.

The four issues in which Labour is not in the lead are Europe, Northern Ireland and defence, in which the Tories are in the lead, and the environment, in which the Liberal Democrats are seen to have the best policies.

Tory strategists will regard

their small lead on Europe - 31 to 26 per cent - as a vindication of their recent tilt in a sceptic direction and of ministers' strong assertion of national interests. However, the gap is a narrow one and the issue is given a fairly low priority. Defence and Northern Ireland also remain strong issues for the Tories but are seen as low in importance.

On most issues, it is the middle-aged who have the strongest preference for Labour's policies.

It is also revealing that Labour is now well ahead with regards to trade unions, an area of both importance and strength to the Tories during the 1980s.

Indeed, Tony Blair is currently telling American business in New York that Labour is seeking to build on Thatcherism, not trying to reverse it, and that the Thatcher Government did two things right: it revived a spirit of enterprise and created a legal framework for the operations of trade unions.

The Tories must either increase the salience of the defence and Northern Ireland issues to more voters, or turn the tide of public opinion on those in which Labour leads. Nearly 50 per cent of the electorate decide which party to vote for mainly on their perception of the parties' stance on issues of importance to them.

MORI interviewed 987 adults at 71 ward sampling points between March 22 and 25. Interviews were conducted face to face in homes.

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مكزامن الأمل

City offers Labour historic Guildhall for London body

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S historic Guildhall is being offered to the Labour Party as a home for the elected body with which it is planning to replace the former Greater London Council.

In a spirit of co-operation between Tony Blair and the City, the Corporation of London, which governs the square mile, is willing to share its 15th-century building with Labour's proposed Greater London Authority.

The offer is a powerful endorsement for the party's plans for a strategic authority. The GLA would have no revenue-raising powers and would be financed by savings from the winding-up of quangos which replaced the GLC. The Guildhall is arguably a more significant home than County Hall, the imposing former GLC building which looks across the Thames to the Palace of Westminster.

The GLA, which would be made up of elected councillors from every London borough or parliamentary constituency, would lead to the capital's first directly elected mayor, following the example of New York or Paris. The Corporation's Lord Mayor of London,



Dobson: said views of Londoners were sought

a symbolic figure who harks back to Dick Whittington, will continue to live at the Mansion House.

Only a few years ago Labour was committed to the abolition of the corporation, which is the only local council to retain the business vote. In two wards there is not a single residential voter.

The corporation wins its reprieve in Labour's consultation document released yesterday, *A Voice for London*. It secured a stay of execution after spending millions of

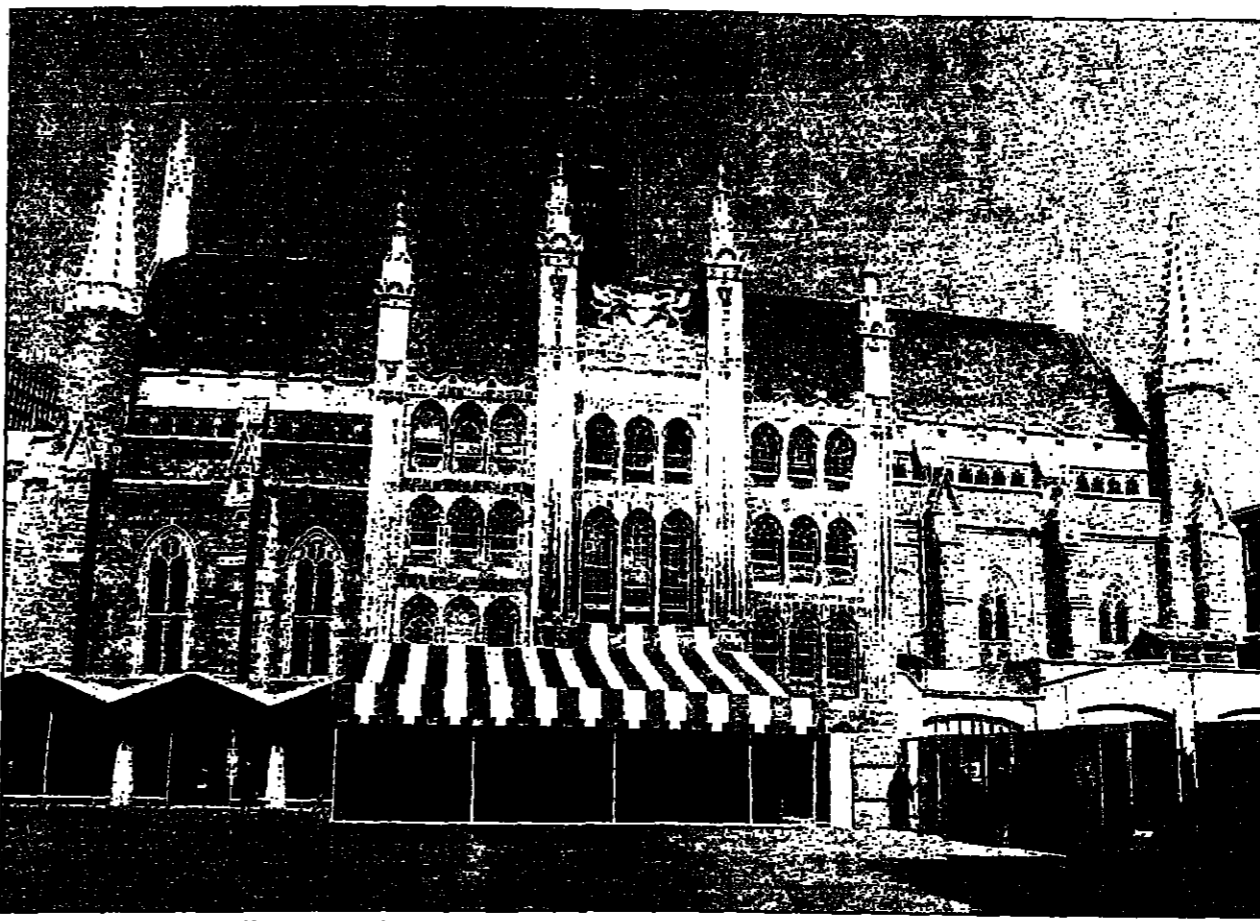
pounds on environmental and housing projects in neighbouring inner-city boroughs such as Southwark and Hackney.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the corporation's policy and resources committee, said: "We have had a letter from the London Labour Party seeking our agreement for co-operation to share the premises as a home for the new Greater London Authority."

"We will look at this very sympathetically. Guildhall has an aura of history about it. We are prepared to share our chamber for meetings. We will make office space available for the elected mayor and for the administration of the authority. We will be delighted to work together."

"Some Labour MPs would have kicked our mayor out of the Mansion House and taken over Guildhall. Our Lord Mayor, who is a non-political figure, cannot be a threat to an incoming GLA."

The proposal for a directly elected mayor, enthusiastically supported by Tony Blair, is fraught with difficulties. If Labour adopts the New York option the mayor, who will be chosen by an electorate of about seven million, could be elected from the party in opposition to the GLA. However, the Labour leadership is also looking at the French



The Guildhall offer is an endorsement of Labour's plan for an elected body to succeed the former GLC

system, where the leader of the ruling party automatically becomes the mayor.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary and party spokesman on London, said at the launch of the policy document: "We are seeking the views of Londoners on whether London should have an elected mayor with some executive powers. This system has worked well for many European cities. I believe that Londoners will go for the idea of an elected mayor."

The GLA will have a limited

number of staff who will be headhunted from quangos, such as the London Docklands Development Corporation. The GLC employed 15,000 people.

Services such as the police, transport and fire service will be supervised by boards with more than half the members drawn from the GLA. Mr Dobson said it would be financed by savings on the millions of pounds being spent by unaccountable quangos. "This should result in considerable cost-savings on ad-

ministration. Our proposed London authority will mean more effective representation - a real voice for London and better value for money."

The Metropolitan Police would report to a London-wide police authority. "This could become a direct function of the new elected Greater London Authority," Mr Dobson said.

The GLA would help to set up a development agency for London which would formulate an overall economic strategy. The authority would also

lay down transport guidelines. Mr Dobson said: "Overall control of London Transport should be returned to the elected representatives of London."

The new authority would appoint a board which would control the operation of the bus and Tube networks and would seek to make better use of the Thames for transport.

Labour's plans for the GLA might be put to a referendum of Londoners, but the party still has to decide how this would be done.

Jail terms plan 'will lead to violence'

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON staff will be at a greater risk of violent attack and even death under the Government's tough new sentencing proposals, Judge Stephen Timmins said yesterday.

The former Chief Inspector of Prisons warned of the far-reaching effects Michael Howard's plans would have on prison life and in particular on the 29,000 prison officers in 135 jails in England and Wales. Judge Timmins condemned the proposal to end automatic remission for the 53,000 prisoners and replace it with a system of rewards based on continuous assessment throughout an offender's time in jail.

"If you are not going to get parole or remission than you might as well beat up or murder a prison officer," he told a reception at King's College in central London.

He said it was a "very dangerous doctrine" to give responsibility for early release and release on licence to prison officers. He said that under the Home Secretary's "deplorable" proposals remission would be based on continual assessment by the prison officers.

He said: "This is going to cause bad relations and bring allegations of racism and favouritism, of support by officers of snobs by one prisoner against another. Nothing could be worse for prison discipline than that."

Under Mr Howard's proposals people convicted of a second sexual or violent offence would receive an automatic life sentence; offenders convicted of dealing in Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine on two or more occasions would get a minimum seven years and burglars with three or more convictions a minimum three years in jail.

Proposals to put probation officers on performance-related pay linked to the behaviour of the offenders they supervise were condemned as unworkable yesterday. Chief probation officers in England and Wales said that Home Office moves to introduce an element of "pay by results" for their staff would seriously damage supervision of an estimated 110,000 offenders.

Blunkett hopes to widen teaching net

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR plans to bring new ideas into the classroom by persuading people from business, industry and the media to become teachers will be unveiled today by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary.

Mr Blunkett will outline a scheme to keep schools in touch with the world of work when he addresses the National Association of School Teachers in Glasgow. The proposals will form part of a ten-point deal with the teaching profession. Experienced

professionals from other fields could enter teaching while taking part-time training courses. Those already in schools would be offered sabbaticals in business or industry to refresh their skills.

Mr Blunkett will tell the conference that he is determined to forge stronger links between teaching and the world of work. He is particularly keen to attract more people with experience of financial services, industry, commerce and the media.

The model for Labour's scheme will be existing Open University courses, which provide the opportunity for a career switch in one year. Mr Blunkett is aiming partic-

ularly at the over-40s, some of whom may have taken early retirement after successful careers. They would be offered an accelerated route into teaching in recognition of their wider skills.

Similar initiatives introduced by Conservative ministers have encountered opposition from teachers' unions determined to maintain an all-graduate profession. But Mr Blunkett's offer, which includes limits on class sizes in infants schools and the introduction of an "advanced teacher" grade may smooth the way for his plans.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said yesterday that a new era

of union co-operation with government could follow the election. A social partnership between trade unions and politicians could mean lower wage demands in return for united action against unemployment and poor working conditions, he said.

The union's annual conference approved Mr de Gruchy's plan for a wide debate within the union on how far co-operation could be taken with a "socially enlightened government". He said there would still probably have to be a ballot of all members before the union approached a political party to discuss the details of a partnership.

Ministers press on with M25 widening

BY JONATHAN PEYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is going ahead with plans to broaden a two-mile section of the M25 to 12 lanes, creating one of the widest roads in the world outside of America. The £94 million scheme is aimed at easing chronic congestion along the busiest stretch of the 117-mile London orbital, which is Europe's busiest road.

Under the plans unveiled yesterday, the section between junction 14 and junction 15, the M4 exit, will be widened from four to six lanes in each direction. Also, the section between junction 12, the M3 exit, and junction 14, the Heathrow exit, will be widened from four to five lanes.

The proposals were first unveiled last April when Brian Mawhinney, the then Transport Secretary, announced that plans to build a 14-lane superhighway were to be downgraded.

Anti-roads groups had hoped that the alternative 12-lane plan would be dropped by Sir George Young, Mr Mawhinney's successor, who is considered less sympathetic to large-scale road-building. Yesterday, however, the Highways Agency launched formal consultation on the scheme.

The Government believes the widening, combined with traffic management schemes such as variable speed limits, will be sufficient to deal with predicted traffic growth for the next 15 years.

The proposals were described as good value for money by John Watts, Transport Minister. "They are an important step forward in the relief of congestion for this very busy motorway," he said. "With the introduction of variable speed limits last year, this will accommodate traffic growth well into the next century."

Lynn Stoman, assistant director of the environmental group Transport 2000, said: "These proposals are utterly futile. Widening a busy stretch of motorway is no way to reduce congestion."

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Americans rescue 150 from Liberia under heavy fire

FROM BUDU KAISA IN MONROVIA AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

UNDER heavy artillery fire, more than 150 foreigners were evacuated from Liberia yesterday as factional fighting, in which up to 300 people have died, raked the city for the fifth successive day.

Gunfire was also heard in the direction of the Barclay Training Centre military barracks in Monrovia as two US helicopter gunships intermittently ducked behind the American Embassy compound to whisk civilians out of range of the armour in front of the building.

Liberian civilians watched the gunships sweep out over the Atlantic in a chilly reminder of the time American gunboats stood offshore and evacuated foreigners in 1990 when Charles Taylor, the rebel leader, first launched his attempt to seize power. The American influence is still felt in Liberia, where the flag and legal system are the same as those of the United States.

The battle lines have been drawn between Roosevelt Johnson and his Krahn tribe who make up three of the country's seven warring factions. The other side is a loose alliance led by Mr Taylor, a descendant of freed American slaves. Wilton Sankawulo, the head of the six-man Council of

State, the collective presidency, has made no comment on the conflict.

The State Department in Washington said yesterday that it would continue evacuating all foreigners from Liberia, despite a peace accord hurriedly brokered by ambassadors from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. American Embassy sources said they had only three days of food left.

A band of rebel fighters armed with AK47 rifles stormed a carpark near the Mamba Point safe zone, a diplomatic enclave on the southern edge of the capital, and fired into the air to scare off onlookers as they broke through windows to move the cars. The group later moved down the road and took away a United Nations jeep.

"The only thing the rebels understand is to loot and kill," one woman said. Marco Okaja, a businessman, broke down as he explained how he watched helplessly as rebels looted his shop. "The rebels held me at gunpoint and splashed mud on me as they looted my store," he said. "There is no store left untouched in Waterside [the city's commercial centre]. It is hard to identify the sides in

this latest ethnic war as the fighters dress in similar civilian clothing.

About 60 American troops were in Monrovia helping with the evacuation and a further 500 were standing by in Sierra Leone and Senegal. The evacuees were being flown 235 miles to Freetown by helicopter before boarding cargo aircraft destined for Dakar, the capital of Senegal, and commercial flights to Europe and beyond.

Although the Pentagon said that no violence in Liberia had been directed at American citizens, two heavily armed Hercules aircraft were standing ready should fighting erupt again in Monrovia. The US European Command, in charge of Operation Assured Response, has sent three HC130s from RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, capable of refuelling helicopters in mid-air, two MCL30 special operations aircraft and two basic transport C130s.

The fighting erupted on Saturday when armed policemen stormed Mr Johnson's house to arrest him for the killing of three opponents in his Krahn faction. His whereabouts are now unknown.

Leading article, page 19



A US helicopter lifts off in Sierra Leone to help in rescuing foreigners from Liberia

Political struggle gives way to war of greed and evil

By MARK HUBAND

AFTER almost seven years of civil war, Liberia's conflict has swung from being a struggle against dictatorship to a nightmarish combination of greed, evil and stupidity.

Roosevelt Johnson, the self-styled general who is wanted for murder and whose refusal to be arrested by the country's fragile ruling council ignited the latest outbreak of violence, has little to distinguish himself from other warlords with their hands on the rusting wheels of power.

A member of the Krahn ethnic group, General Johnson emerged in 1994 as the leader of a tribal faction within one of the five increasingly fragmented armed groups whose war has destroyed the country.

The struggle against the dictatorship of the late President Doe, which was the reason for the war when it started in 1989, has long been forgotten. Now, the conflict is between rival warlords with largely tribal armies.

The charge of murder against General Johnson would be laughable if Liberia were not such a tragedy. Liberians can pin murder charges on most of their self-styled leaders. The country is a murderer's safe haven, in which 150,000 people have been slaughtered.

It is telling that General Johnson — short, round and

bearing an uncanny resemblance to the Chicago gangsters — Liberia's warlords emulate in the belief that they are what leadership "looks like" — did not deny the murder charge. What seemed to upset him was that he was not going to be allowed to get away with it.

Key among his accusers was Charles Taylor, the former civil servant who launched the liberation struggle-turned-horror-story. General Johnson hates Mr Taylor, who is likely to become Liberia's next President, if only because he looks less sinister than his rival warlords.

As hatred, personal enmity, covetousness and deceit are the main elements in the Liberian political debate, it is not surprising that General Johnson decided to plunge the war-racked capital Monrovia into chaos, seize hostages and barricade himself behind his rocket-propelled grenades as a way of showing his feelings. But just as easily as he exploded, he has now calmed down and offered to hand himself over to the "authorities".

Yesterday's evacuation of Americans was a fine military exercise perfectly manicured for American domestic consumption. But Roosevelt Johnson had his 15 minutes of fame. Now Liberia will sink back into obscurity.

Peking grooms friends for 1997

FROM JONATHAN MURPHY IN HONG KONG



Kim said to do right things in wrong way

Seoul set to oust its ruling party

FROM CATHERINE LEE IN SEOUL

THE ruling New Korea Party of President Kim Young Sam is expected to lose its majority in the National Assembly in today's election despite the unifying boost of lurid threats from North Korea.

The political forecast is that the break-up and realignment of political parties will continue well into next year, when the presidential election is planned for December.

Many political analysts attribute President Kim's falling popularity to a growing discontent with his ruling style. Most of the ruling party candidates, believing their membership is no longer an asset, are trying to distance themselves from their party affiliation.

"The question is not 'if', but 'by what margin' the ruling party will lose. If it loses more than 30 seats, political realignments will be unavoidable," Suh Sang Mok, a ruling party candidate, says.

Taking office in 1993, President Kim enacted laws designed to root out government corruption. He even introduced one to punish people, including former Presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, for wrongdoings dating back to 1980.

But he is often criticised for doing the right things in the wrong way, giving his countrymen an impression that he is politically motivated. He put two former presidents in jail on corruption charges, but refuses to disclose funds he spent in the 1992 presidential election campaign. An opposition leader has confessed he had received a substantial amount of money from Mr Roh.

Last month, one of President Kim's aides was arrested and indicted for allegedly taking bribes from businessmen. The scandal further eroded Mr Kim's popularity.

Korean law forbids pollsters to disclose survey results during election campaigns. Judging from privately conducted polls, however, the ruling NKP is expected to win about 37 per cent of the 299 National Assembly seats. It now holds 147, or 49 per cent. The National Coalition for New Politics, led by Kim Dae Jung, is expected to emerge with a third of the seats.

LU PING, China's senior official in charge of Hong Kong, arrives in the colony today and in Mao Tse-tung's words will make plain "who are our friends, and who are our enemies".

Mr Lu, director of the Hong Kong and China Affairs Office, is also Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee, whose 150 local and mainland members, handpicked by Peking, will operate before and after the 1997 handover. The committee will meet Hong Kong groups to discuss their ideas on the formation of the next Government. Tomorrow Mr Lu will give a speech on the colony's future.

In China's continuing policy of driving a wedge between Chris Patten, the Governor, and his civil servants, Zhou Nan, China's most senior diplomat in Hong Kong, announced yesterday that he would host a dinner for Mr Lu and for Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Mr Patten's deputy, on April 18 while the Governor is in London for talks with John Major. Mr Chan welcomed Mr Zhou's invitation and said she hoped for wide-ranging discussions.

As part of Peking's ban on contacts with the Government, Mr Lu has refused to meet Mr Patten in Hong Kong, but he has seen Ms Chan in Peking. Ms Chan is regarded by some as a candidate to become the first chief executive picked by Peking.

During recent weeks Peking has dragged its relations with Britain to new depths by announcing it would install its own legislative council and chief executive months before the takeover.

The British Government has threatened to sue the Chinese government over its dissolution of Hong Kong institutions. Yesterday's Foreign Office said that Peking failed to observe the Joint Declaration "other rules would have to be explored".

Mr Lu and other officials have also suggested that senior civil servants must indicate their loyalty to the Chinese-appointed council if they hope to continue in office after the takeover.

Shanghai's Shanghai authorities have ordered at least two groups of expatriate Christians to stop conducting services, in line with new regulations on religious affairs, sources said. (AFP)

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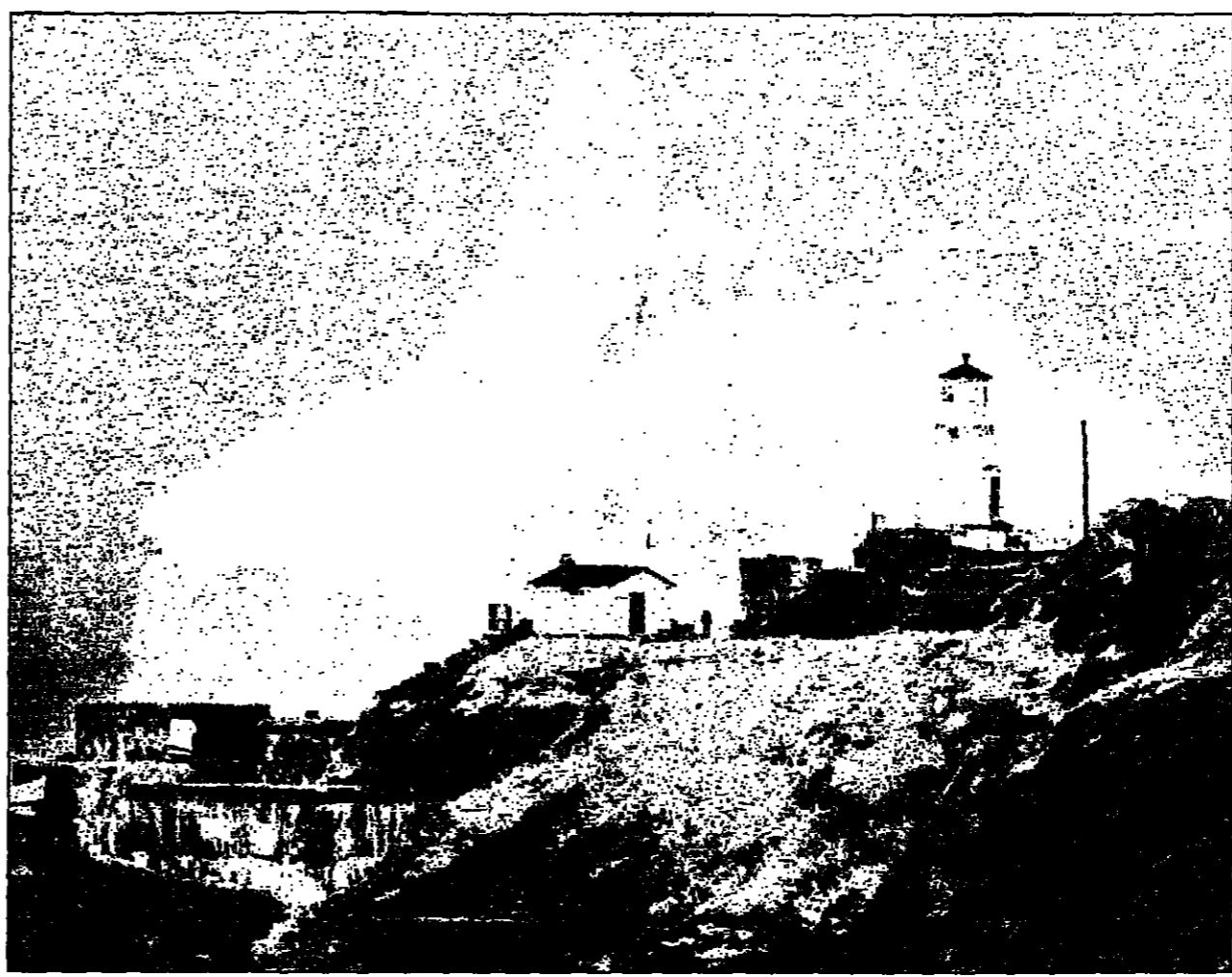
Mitsubishi faces \$150m bill over sex harassment

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WOMEN at a Japanese car factory near Chicago had their bottoms and breasts pinched, were called names and were subjected to the widest-ranging instances of sexual harassment, according to US equal opportunities investigators. It has resulted in America's biggest sexual harassment case. Hundreds of female workers at the Mitsubishi car plant in Normal, Illinois, could be awarded \$300,000 (£197,000) each if the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission succeeds with its federal suit against Mitsubishi. The commission interviewed employees over 15 months, cited "groping, grabbing and touching" of female workers. Those who complained about the alleged abuse were ostracised, laughed at, or forced to resign, the commission claimed. It cited the case of a man placing an air gun between a woman's legs and pulling the trigger. The factory has 4,000 employees, of whom 800 are women. Paul Igasaki, the commission's vice-chairman, said that some women were called "sluts, whores and bitches and other names which I cannot

repeat". Obscene graffiti decorated the men's lavatory, including a list of female staff who allegedly had slept with male co-workers. One man found the name of his wife, who also works at the factory, and who was accused of being involved in group sex. The commission believes that Mitsubishi contravened the Civil Right Acts of 1964, and said that damages, according to a 1991 Act, could reach \$300,000 for each person affected. Mitsubishi faces a possible bill of \$150 million. Mr Igasaki said that he expects "to show that from at least 1990 forward the working environment at Mitsubishi was characterised by continuous physical and verbal abuse against women". In a separate action, 30 female Mitsubishi employees have accused the company's Japanese managers of "inaction and indifference" to the harassment. Mr Igasaki, himself of Japanese descent, did not add to these allegations but said: "It may be that Japanese management here needs to understand how important it is that management and leadership make sure that

this kind of situation does not occur." A union which represents many of the women did little to stop the alleged harassment. Gary Shultz, for Mitsubishi, said: "Discrimination of any kind will never — and has never — been tolerated at this plant. We have a very comfortable atmosphere for female employees." Mr Shultz added that Mitsubishi would defend the suit and criticised the commission for going public with details. Mr Igasaki said the suit was politically motivated. The commission has recently been criticised by Republican members of Congress, some of whom have questioned the need for its existence. It was ridiculed last year for acting against a restaurant chain which employs long-legged waitresses in hot pants. Mr Igasaki said the Mitsubishi case "should have a significant impact beyond the parties and should send the strongest message that sexual harassment in the workplace, whether in office suites or on the assembly line, will not be tolerated".



One of the first giant icebergs of the year looms over Fort Amherst at the mouth of the Narrows in the harbour of St John's, Newfoundland, yesterday. Such huge mountains of ice drift down from the north every spring

Poachers threaten survival of bears

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BLACK bears that have thrived in Canada's vast wilderness for millennia are being poached at a rate that threatens their continued existence, conservationists say. Poachers are killing up to 40,000 black bears a year to supply the Chinese restaurants of Canada, Hong Kong and South Korea with bear-claw soup, considered a great delicacy. Huge sums are also paid for bear gall-bladders for use in oriental medicine. "If the rate [of killing] keeps going over the next five years, we will lose the species in the wild," Michael O'Sullivan, director of the Humane Society of Canada, said. "We have to do something now." Bear-claw soup can sell for up to \$65 a bowl in Hong Kong, according to British Columbia's Environment Ministry, while bear bile can net more profit than any similar amount of cocaine.

Bank that likes to say stick 'em up

Hanoi: Do Trung Kien may have a lesson for bankers the world over — the AK47 rifle is more effective than a stern fax when it comes to collecting stubborn unpaid debts. Mr Kien, deputy manager of a Vietnamese bank in Ho Chi Minh City, destroyed the image of bankers as cautious men in dark suits when he orchestrated a commando raid on a company that owed six billion dong (£359,000). Sixteen employees armed with the Czech-made high-velocity rifles, which belonged to bank security guards, swooped on the offices of Hai Yen Co in Ho Chi Minh City, snipping telephone lines and cordoning off the area, the Tuoi Tre newspaper reported. The bankers loaded three lorries with equipment pledged as collateral for the original three billion dong (£178,000) loan to the garment company — then the police arrived and arrested them. "This is a fantasy for bankers," said an executive from a top Western bank in Hanoi. "We dream of doing things like this but bankers have to act within the law." (AFP)

Clinton gives voice to American grief

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RON BROWN, the Commerce Secretary whose plane crashed in Croatia last week, was being buried in Arlington National Cemetery yesterday after President Clinton delivered a televised eulogy. Since taking office in 1993, Mr Clinton has buried his mother, his father-in-law and Vincent Foster, his old Arkansas friend and White House aide. He has delivered moving tributes at funerals or memorial services for Richard Nixon, Leg Aspin, the former Defence Secretary, Jacqueline Kennedy, the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, and Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister. "Clinton seems to excel at such tasks," Richard Cohen, a Washington Post columnist, wrote this week. "Once so young, once so seemingly callow, he has somehow emerged of late as a more solid, custodial figure — maybe not, you might argue, a president for all times, but certainly, you would have to concede, a president for the bad ones." Mary McGrory, another Post columnist, concurred. In the wake of last week's tragedy,

in which 32 other Americans also died, Mr Clinton adopted his "favourite role, that of comforter of the afflicted... he offered a shoulder for the country to cry on," she wrote. An NBC television presenter noted that "when the nation grieves he is there, making the right gesture, saying just the right thing". Some Republicans privately contend the silver-tongued President is seeking to exploit the tragedy for political advantage, in this election year, but even the most partisan would admit Bob Dole, the Republicans' rhetorically challenged presidential nominee, would be severely tested. On the campaign trail, he seeks to make an asset of being inarticulate and claims to be a "doer not a talker", implying Mr Clinton offers only empty words and promises. But public speaking is an essential part of the modern presidency, and Americans expect their President to express the nation's feelings at times of great emotion.

Wives as weapons, page 17

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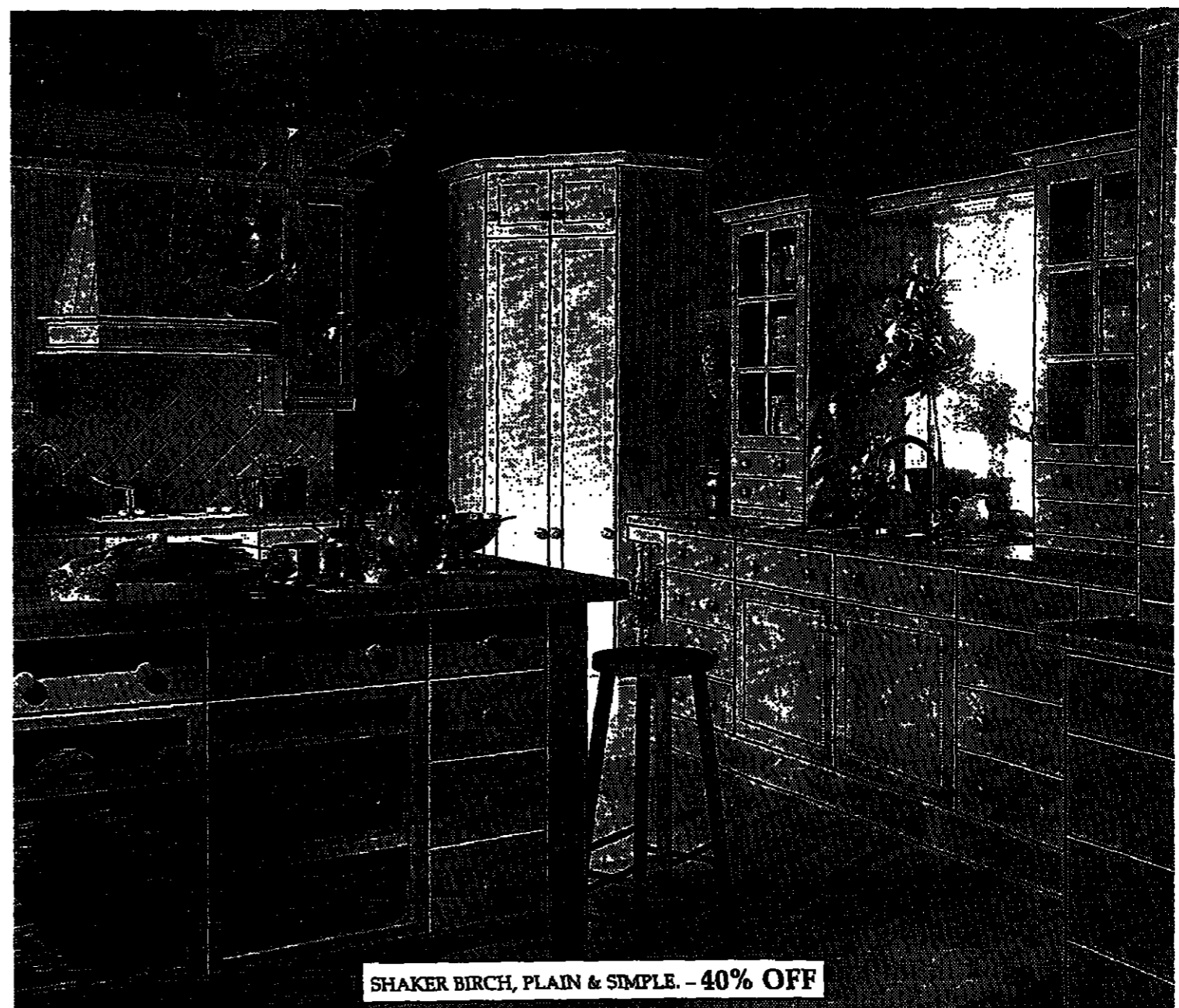
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Risk from ageing and unsafe installations worsens ten years after Chernobyl catastrophe

Fallout of past neglect puts millions in peril

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A DECADE after the Chernobyl nuclear accident contaminated vast reaches of Europe with radioactive fallout...

From the nuclear submarine pens of Russia's Arctic and Pacific fleets, where dozens of vessels lie rotting...

The collapse of communism may have ushered in East-West co-operation on nuclear safety and helped in the emergence of a strong environmentalist movement in Russia...

The most pressing concern facing the international community is how to ensure the safety of reactors at several sites dotted across the former Soviet Union...

versal are the RBMK graphite-moderated reactors of the same design as Chernobyl's Unit 4 which exploded ten years ago...

While some efforts have been made over the past few years to improve safety, the design of the RBMK reactors is widely recognised as inherently unsafe and prone to fire.

LEGACY OF DISASTER

Professor Adolf Birkhofer, who presided over an international conference on the reactors this week in Vienna, gave a warning that another accident was possible and recommended that two reactors in Ukraine and Lithuania should be shut down permanently.

Environmentalists are also concerned about the unsafe plant in Russia's northern Kola Peninsula and another at Metsamor in Armenia, which was closed down after the 1986 earthquake but recently reactivated.

posed by civilian reactors there is the danger from Russia's 250-strong nuclear submarine fleet. Over the past five years more than half of the vessels were taken out of service...

Joshua Handler, a Greenpeace expert on Russia's submarines, said that the boats, based near Murmansk in the Arctic and Vladivostok in the Far East, represented a significant environmental threat to local populations and neighbouring states.

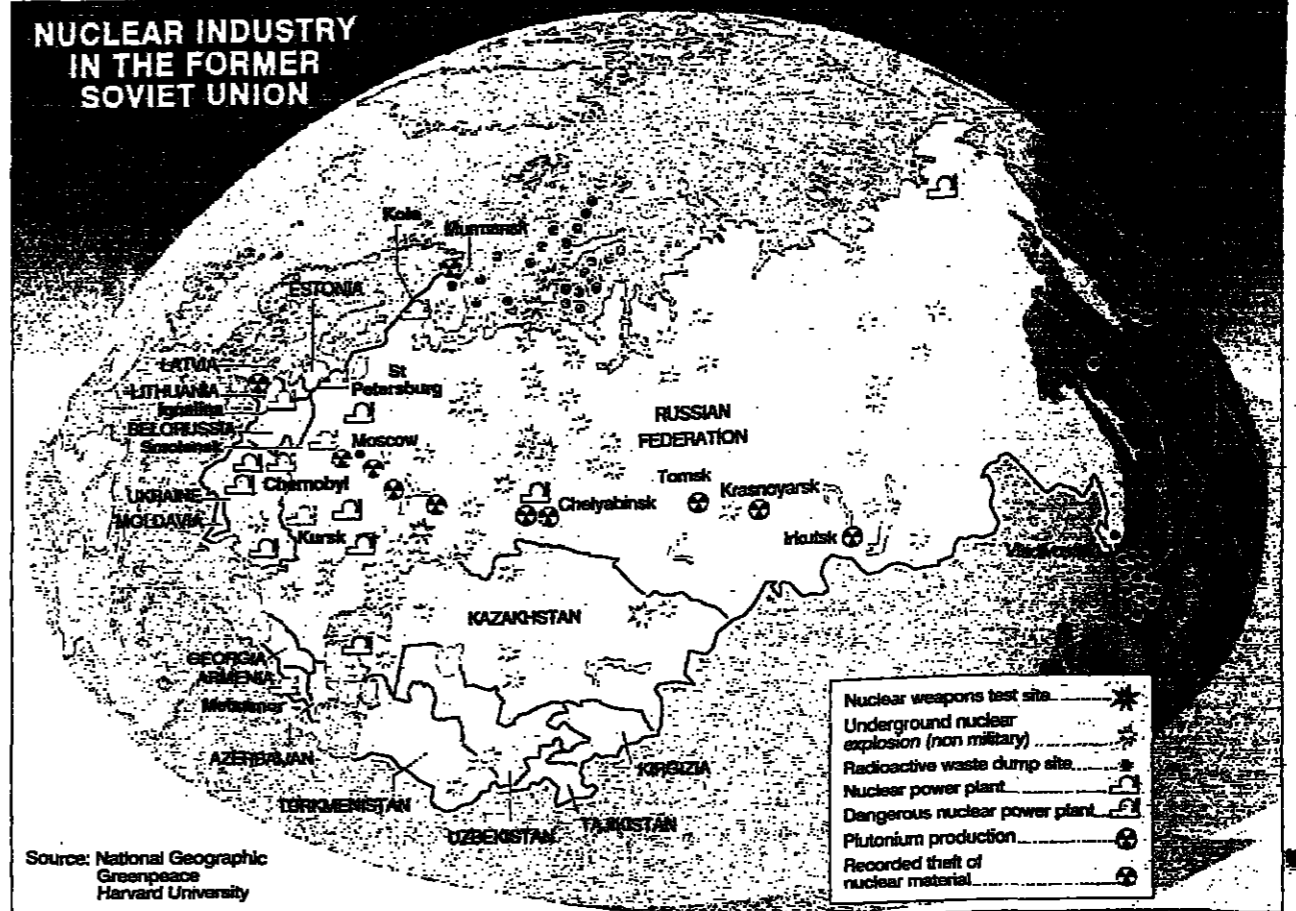
In August 1985, the reactor on board a Soviet submarine exploded in the Far East, emitting about one tenth of the radioactivity released by the Chernobyl disaster eight months later.

vast nuclear complex in the former Soviet Union has also led to the theft of nuclear substances, which have been offered for sale. Many in the West regard this as possibly the most threatening security issue of our age.

Although in most cases the substances proved to be worthless radioactive waste, there is suspicion that Russia's mafia is becoming involved and that serious buyers are emerging...

According to *Avoiding Nuclear Anarchy*, a recently released report by Harvard University, there have been six separate incidents recently when highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the essential components for a nuclear bomb, were stolen in Russia.

Western funding and expertise have been used in fighting the environmental and security problems of Russia's nuclear complex, which will be the central issue this month when leaders of the G7 group of leading industrial nations gather in Moscow.



West tensions may undermine the co-operation. The Kremlin shows little remorse for the devastation caused by decades of nuclear negligence in the Soviet Union...

Ministry of Atomic Energy is proud of its nuclear know-how and is pressing for the construction of a new generation of reactors for the next century.

hailov, the Nuclear Energy Minister, has emerged as one of the most hawkish figures in the Kremlin. Mr Mikhailov routinely blames "Western disinformation" for disclosures about inadequate safety and security lapses at his nuclear installations.

signed a decree stripping a newly formed civilian watchdog of its power to oversee the nuclear safety of military facilities. On two occasions since then American researchers invited to Russia by Moscow to carry out tests for radioactive contamination have been arrested by local security officials for spying.

Nuclear plant reactivated in earthquake zone

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN METSAMOR, ARMENIA

ARMENIA

THE choice was a terrifying one: to leave Armenia virtually without power or to reactivate a nuclear power station built in an earthquake zone.

Armenia chose the second option and in October re-commissioned one of two reactors at the Metsamor power station. It had been shut down after the huge earthquake of December 1988.

Now two plumes of smoke coil from cooling towers within sight of the Armenian holy mountain, Mount Ararat, and only 20 miles west of the capital, Yerevan. The Armenians have spent three years and \$50 million (£33 million) on refitting the reactor and are now host to a long line of delegations from nuclear regulatory authorities.

"Everyone leaves satisfied," Suren Azatyan, the station director, said. They have overhauled all the equipment and installed an extra reserve steam generator. Each of the four generators is buttressed against earthquakes by eight Japanese-built stabilisers.

Most of the financing and technical help came from Russia, which trained all the station operators and supplies the reactor with nuclear fuel once a year by air.

The Metsamor reactor, built in 1979, is one of 27 pressurised light-water VVER-440 type units still operating in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Although these reactors are without some of the design faults of the graphite Chernobyl-type RBMK stations, they are just as old and share one common feature: the lack of a containment dome around the reactor. A big of this type prevented a large radiation leak during the

1979 accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

Mr Azatyan said that the lack of a dome had only made them work harder on other safety features to stop a radiation leak in the first place.

Slavik Danielyan, the station's deputy director, said it was a matter of staff training. "Your operators can eat chocolate as they work, ours have to know more," he said. In the station control room the operators were studying computers and dials made in the 1970s.

The reactors' critics, however, say the refitting amounts to nothing more than patching up a fundamentally flawed structure.

"I am scared by this nuclear power plant," said Victoria Ter-Nikogosyan, an environmental adviser for the United Nations Development Programme in Armenia. They say "Don't worry, we are doing our best," she said.

Over 30 tonnes of nuclear fuel is still stored in water basins on the station site. Negotiations have only just started with the French firm Framatome to build new silos to store waste.

Armenians seem reconciled to the return to service of the reactor, which supplies about two fifths of the country's electricity.

In the winters of 1993 and 1994, because of the total energy blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey, city dwellers were limited to two hours' electricity a day.

At one point, when only the country's presidential palace had reliable electricity supplies, the joke went round that a newsreader on the evening television news began his broadcast: "Good evening, Mr President!"



A Ukrainian child, Olga Derzhutskaya, six, is tested after an operation for thyroid cancer

Children the main victims of Ukrainian reactor disaster

FROM REUTER IN VIENNA

CHILDREN were among the main victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear blast, experts at an international conference said yesterday.

In Belorussia in particular, where 70 per cent of the radiation that leaked from the destroyed nuclear reactor was deposited, more than 400 cases of thyroid cancer among children have been recorded. Scores more were registered in Ukraine where the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is sited.

"There can be no doubt that the increase in childhood thyroid cancer is related to the fallout from Chernobyl," Professor Dillwyn Williams, of Cambridge University, said. He was speaking on the second day of a conference on Chernobyl attended by 700 delegates, politicians and nuclear experts.

He added, however, that the Chernobyl cloud had a silver lining: with increased scientific and medical knowledge, the disease can largely be treated. "With increased monitoring

and good treatment, the death rate from thyroid cancer was not expected to rise," another expert said. "If properly treated, childhood thyroid cancer can be cured."

Professor Williams told the conference, co-sponsored by the World Health Conference with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Commission, that in the Gomel region of southern Belorussia,

CANCER RISK

the area most affected by fallout, cases of thyroid cancer reached an average of 92 per million children a year. The rate dropped to 14.6 per million in the rest of Belorussia. In England and Wales the comparable figure is 0.5 cases per million a year.

Officials are particularly concerned about flooding in the 18-mile zone around the Chernobyl plant, with the threat of contaminated water being carried into drinking supplies. (AP)

Settlers return to find peace on poisoned land

FROM LESIA RUDAKIEWICH IN TEREMTSI, UKRAINE

THE VICTIMS COME HOME

ANNA and Oleksiy Omelchuk live like other rural Ukrainians. Near their wooden house they grow vegetables and raise chickens. Their village, Teremtsi, is accessible only by a winding, almost impassable muddy road or by the Dnipro river about 500 yards away. When Mr Omelchuk, 67, comes back from fishing, Mrs Omelchuk, 65, is already at the stove.

But the Omelchuks are not a typical retired couple. They live in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, an area 18 miles in radius from which people are supposed to be excluded because of radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Like many other homeowners, they refused to be resettled by the then Soviet Government, which moved everyone out, and returned to their village in 1988.

Many had drifted back as early as 1987. In 1989, thousands were returning but the state persisted in driving them out. But since the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Government has relented. Those who moved into the area gave rise to the term "self-settler".

Today, about 650 self-settlers are officially registered in the zone. Many announce their presence with a sign at their door - "The owner lives here". Of about 100 official residents in Teremtsi, about 60 have returned. Like Oleksiy, most are elderly and stay in the zone for one reason: it is better to be home than anywhere else.

"I wasn't born here but I like this place - the river and forests," says Oleksiy. "I bought this house and

worked on it, all my investment and effort. I couldn't just abandon it. My soul is here."

Mr Omelchuk says he checked radiation levels in the house secretly as early as May 1987. "In the first year people here crept back by boat," he said. "The militia were watching and it was illegal to return."

But as he did not find elevated levels of radiation, he came back the next year with his wife.

According to official radiation maps, Teremtsi is not among the zone's worst

"I like this place, the river and forests... I couldn't just abandon it. My soul is here"

affected towns. After the accident, winds carrying radioactive fallout hit northern and western regions. Eastern and southern parts, including the Teremtsi area, were less affected. Today towns in the north are still unpopulated and highly restricted.

"Our area is cleaner than some places in and around Kiev," insists Anna. "We were lucky the way the wind blew."

Patches of radiation exist but self-settlers largely disregard the dangers. Even now, despite regular checks, they gamble on growing their own food.

"You just can't survive on a government pension,"

said Oleksiy, who worked in a Kiev factory for 25 years and receives about £16 a month. "It is easier to live here than in the city."

Anna concedes: "The conditions aren't like the city, but we love it. We plant everything - peppers, tomatoes, potatoes and check if - in Kiev, you don't know where food comes from."

But settlers are not left entirely to their own devices. Chernobyl Zone authorities check well water and food for radiation levels, bring medical help, police the area and, most importantly, drive in goods that cannot be made at home. Twice a week the "auto store" - a lorry delivery - comes by with bread, flour, sugar and other basic goods for villagers to buy.

"We serve as a control over the self-settlers," says Andriy Sukhoruchkin of the Pripyat Radiation Monitoring Station. "In 1986 there were problems - they were getting radiation doses three times higher than normal from food, air and water."

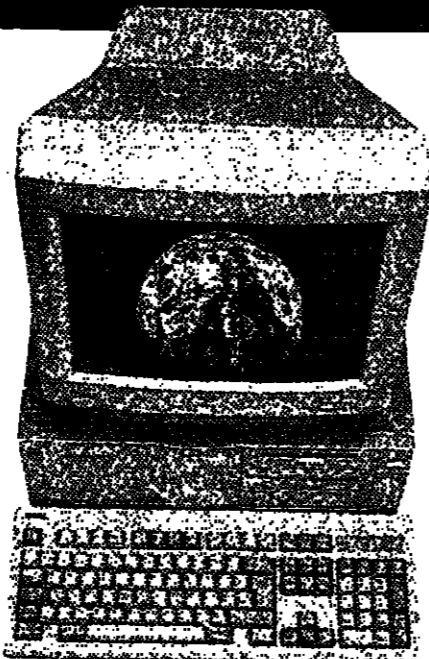
But he adds: "So far their radiation doses aren't high enough to force them to leave. Besides, these people are mostly old, if they were young there would be a more convincing argument to move them out."

In most ways, life in Teremtsi has not changed since Soviet times. A freshly cut woodpile, clothes hanging on a line and piles of scythed hay pay tribute to the daily work. Recreation consists of sitting on the steps for a chat with neighbours.

As Oleksiy settles down to a meal of mushroom blini and fried fish, he lifts the traditional shot of home-distilled vodka. However, the toast he proposes is telling: "Against the radiomukides."

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Brussels calls on Britain to join new ERM group

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will be expected to play along with a system for linking all European Union currencies to the future euro, the European Commission made clear yesterday as ministers prepared for a meeting to draft plans for a new exchange-rate mechanism.

The Commission is adamant that no schemes for forcing membership by reluctant states are being discussed. Sir Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, noted that Britain could block any such move with its veto. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is certain to find himself alone at Verona when he voices Britain's hostility to re-entering a monetary machine which it regards as doomed. Among the other 14 members, only Finland and Sweden have voiced qualms about the scheme.

France, Germany and Belgium have been leading the campaign to ensure that the euro is secured against damage from countries seen to be seeking unfair advantage through letting their currencies devalue against the core European unit. Italy and Spain, as well as Britain to a lesser extent, are deemed guilty of the offence. President Chirac of France said last month that Germany agreed with him on the need for a "binding exchange-rate system linking the euro and the currencies that remain temporarily outside the single currency". M Chirac talked of possible "sanctions" and continental officials have aired various ideas, including fines or the payment of EU transfers in national currencies rather than the euro.

Protesters condemn Chinese leader

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

HUMAN rights demonstrators blocked the Champs-Élysées in Paris yesterday as part of their protests against the four-day state visit to France by Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. As Mr Li prepared to sign five contracts worth a total of 10 billion francs (£1.3 billion) with his French counterpart, Alain Juppé, members of Amnesty International briefly stopped traffic. About 150 members suspended a banner across the avenue which read: "Who will talk about human rights with Mr Li?" The protest was swiftly halted by police who arrested them all before releasing them on bail. Later, several human rights groups held another demonstration at the Trocadero, in central Paris. The action came amid mounting controversy over the Chinese Premier's visit. Opposition Socialist Party figures say the Gaullist-led Government is so keen for Mr Li to buy French products that it has ignored human rights abuses in Tibet and China. Last night, Mr Li was due to agree to purchase 30 Airbus A-320 planes and three A-340s, for a total of \$1.7 billion (£1 billion).



Human rights demonstrators greet Li Peng on his arrival in Paris yesterday

Hamas 'to wage war on Arafat'

Jerusalem: Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, said yesterday that Hamas Islamic extremists were planning war against his self-rule government and said the commanders were based in Jordan (Ross Dunn writes). Jordan has always denied suggestions that Hamas military leaders responsible for attacks against Israelis operate inside the country. "This is a declaration of war," Mr Arafat told members of his legislative council as he read from a document he claimed had been written by Hamas.

Andreotti trial must start again

Rome: The trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, on charges of being the Mafia's top protector in Rome was stopped in Palermo because one of the judges needs eye surgery (Richard Owen writes). The trial will start again in mid-May. Signor Andreotti goes on trial today in Perugia on a separate charge of involvement in the murder of an anti-Mafia journalist in 1979.

China shuts third of rail stations

Peking: China will close almost one third of its passenger railway stations to boost efficiency on the creaking national network, the Xinhua news agency said yesterday. The closure of 1,566 passenger stations, which average only 20 passengers a day, is part of a package intended to bring the state-owned system into the market economy. (Reuter)

Quick hair cut saves the day

Sydney: An emergency hair cut is being credited with saving the life of an Australian woman whose long blonde hair jammed in her climbing harness while abseiling down a cliff outside Sydney. Armed with a pair of scissors, a police officer abseiled down and snipped her free. (Reuter)

Prince throws hat in ring

Rome: Prince Rainier of Monaco yesterday emerged as an unlikely ally of one of the world's oldest circuses, which is threatened with bankruptcy because of pressure from animal rights activists (Richard Owen writes). The head of the 182-year-old circus, Nando Orfei, has gone on hunger strike in an attempt to force the Italian Government to make up "disastrous losses" incurred since the circus stopped using animals a week ago. Prince Rainier revealed a passion for the circus, telling *La Repubblica* that as a boy he wanted to become a clown. He said that without animals a circus was "nothing more than a music hall".

Chechens accused of village bomb attacks

BY THOMAS DE WAAL THE commander-in-chief of the Russian Air Force yesterday accused Chechen rebels of blowing up their own villages to undermine the peace process in the republic. General Petr Deinekin, in his first appearance before the press since the mass bombardment of Chechnya in the winter of 1994, disclaimed all responsibility for bombing raids last week in Chechnya in which many civilians were killed. He insisted that the bombings had "ended" completely, with the exception of flights by reconnaissance aircraft. Reading out what he

Sarajevo mourns its fallen lovers

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE bodies of the slain Sarajevo lovers shot as they tried to flee their besieged city in May 1993 were laid to rest yesterday in the Lion's Cemetery in the heart of the newly reunified capital. Admiria Ismic, a Muslim, and Bosko Brkic, a Serb — have come to be known as Sarajevo's "Romeo and Juliet". They were exhumed last week from their unintended graves in a Serb military cemetery. About 50 mourners, some following Orthodox-Serbian customs and others adhering to Muslim traditions, stood in silence around the single grave with its joint headstone as the wooden coffins were

placed in ground where so many other victims are buried. "I was afraid throughout the war I would be killed before I could finish this," said Admiria's father, Zijah Ismic, as he shoveled the first mound of earth over the coffins of his daughter and her lover. The other mourners followed suit, shovelling earth and tossing flowers into the grave. Two floral wreaths then were placed on a mound of earth at the site, a purple satin cloth with the words "To the dear children" placed between them. Admiria and Bosko, both 25, were trying to escape the ethnic hatred that had torn their country apart to pursue a new life abroad when they were killed on Vrbanjka Bridge. Their bodies lay in a frozen embrace for eight days while Muslims and Serbs argued over who had killed them and who would risk retrieving the bodies. When yesterday's ceremony ended, Nera Ismic, Admiria's mother, kissed the grave stone as the procession of mourners left in silence. "These should be the last war victims to be buried here," said Ivan Maric, one of the gravediggers. "It must never happen again."

Brussels: Bosnian Serb leaders were reported last night to have rejected a last-minute invitation to attend this weekend's Brussels gathering of international donors (Charles Bremner writes). The meeting will be asked to pledge another \$1.2 billion (£757 million) of aid for the reconstruction of Bosnia. Carl Bildt, the representative managing the civilian side of the Dayton peace accord, asked Bosnian Serb authorities to send representatives after they freed 220 prisoners of war.

Serbs reject invitation

THE SUNDAY TIMES

GILLIAM THE BARBARIAN

For his wild new movie *Twelve Monkeys*, which opens here next week, Terry Gilliam had to tame Hollywood stars and moguls before they could tame him. See the Magazine on Sunday PLUS 32 pages of men's fashion

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New findings shed light on glaucoma

Sight for sore eyes

ABOUT ten years ago the doorman at my club was not his usual cheery self when he greeted me one evening. One of his eyes was red, the pupil slightly dilated, and he complained of severe pain and some loss of vision. My role at Moorfields Eye Hospital had been in the venerology department, but even to a non-specialist doctor the diagnosis of acute glaucoma was probable.

Acute glaucoma has obvious signs and symptoms. But the most common type — the chronic simple variety, technically known as primary open-angle glaucoma — is often asymptomatic other than that the patient's vision is progressively restricted.

Glaucoma is second only to cataracts as a cause of loss of sight in the world and it accounts for 15 per cent of blindness in the UK. Two per cent of 40-year-olds and 10 per cent of those in their seventies have a raised pressure of the fluid within the eye, a finding often associated with glaucoma.

Doubt is now cast on the traditional concept that glaucoma can be diagnosed merely by measuring the intraocular pressure. This can be estimated either by tonometry, in which the pressure is measured with a small device applied to the surface of the eye, or by the puff-of-air technique used by optometrists.

The current thinking on the causes, diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma has recently been reviewed by Roger Hitchings, a consultant at Moorfields, in a report



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

published in the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

The early diagnosis of a raised intraocular pressure is still important as it is a very significant risk factor for the development of glaucoma. It is found that the greater the pressure the greater the likelihood of developing glaucoma, although not everyone who has a raised pressure develops it. Primary open-angle glaucoma is now thought of as a degenerative condition of the optic nerve. The raised intraocular pressure may predispose a patient to this degeneration, and so may other factors including a poor blood supply to the optic nerve such as occurs in patients whose blood pressure is either too high or too low. Some patients, for instance, with a raised blood pressure are over-treated so that when they are asleep the blood pressure falls to levels which may interfere with the blood supply to the optic nerve.

A family history of glaucoma and race — black races have more glaucoma than white — are other important risk factors. By studying the optic nerve at the back of the eye with three-dimensional optic disc bi-microscopy during a slit-lamp examination of the eye, specialists can detect early changes in the optic nerve two years before there is any loss of vision. Treatment for chronic simple glaucoma is either medical, laser or surgical, and it is now possible to prescribe effective eye drops for those people in whom beta-blocking drops produce serious side effects.

Drinks and the risk of kidney stones

WHEN blood was found in the urine of one of my contemporaries the immediate thought was that it might be from a cancer of the urinary tract. Fortunately his symptoms proved to be the result of kidney stones. After the diagnosis had been made the next question was whether or not his appreciation of good wine had been a factor in the formation of these stones. Luckily it was possible to reassure him, as a study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* of 45,289 men between the ages of 40 and 75 had shown that coffee, tea, beer and wine, when taken in reasonable amounts, actually lower the risk of kidney stone formation. Conversely, people who had rejected alcohol, tea and coffee in favour of fruit juices had a higher incidence of kidney stones.

Wine was the most efficient drink at reducing the likelihood of forming urinary-tract stones, cutting the rate by 39 per cent. Beer drinkers were 21 per cent less likely to develop stones and those who took tea and coffee had a 10 per cent reduction. The fruit-juice drinkers were 35 per cent more likely to form stones.

Don't take your pills lying down

PATIENTS tend to look askance at their doctors when they are advised that pills and tablets should be swallowed while they are standing up, and that they shouldn't be taken just before going to bed or even before going to sit in a car or by the television set. Pills should be washed down with liberal quantities of fluid and the patient should then, preferably, wander about until enough time has elapsed for them to have reached the stomach.

Evidence that advice on pill swallowing is medically important has been provided this week by the reports on the side effects which have been recorded when Fosamax, the new and potentially very useful anti-osteoporosis drug, is incorrectly swallowed.

Like many drugs, Fosamax, if not taken properly, can dissolve in the gullet (oesophagus), where it can cause an acute inflammation or even ulceration. The lining of the oesophagus is often unable to withstand many chemicals whereas the stomach lining is tougher. If a pill or tablet is taken when the patient is standing upright it is less likely to be delayed at the bottom of the oesophagus, where it can cause damage.



Roland Boyes: "I know there are people worse than me, and I want to help because Alzheimer's is terrible... But I'm not resentful that it happened to me"

Slide into dementia

The Labour MP Roland Boyes and his wife tell Mary Riddell about his desperate battle to overcome the effects of Alzheimer's disease

He was halfway through his rallying call to the faithful when the terror began. To Roland Boyes, MP for Houghton and Washington, his monthly speech to the constituency party was as familiar and — he occasionally chided himself — as predictable as the shipping forecast.

Now there was only a lengthening hush in the local YMCA and a row of puzzled faces as he stood, feeling perspiration trickle down his back and groping for the words which would not come. "Someone prompted me in the end. He gave me the sentence I wanted, and I was all right."

Over the next weeks, that phrase was to become a mantra. "I'm all right," he would tell his wife, Pat, as she grew increasingly anxious. "I'm all right," he would reassure alarmed colleagues at Westminster.

For how could Roland Boyes — bluff, confident, with a clutch of Labour frontbench jobs to his credit — admit, even to himself, that his life had become a tangled nightmare? His memory was dimming, his energy fading and, on the dark winter nights of January 1995, he would stagger home from the House of Commons, never sure that he would complete the short walk to his Millbank flat.

"I didn't know if I was going to be on the sidewalk or in the river. It was terribly frightening. I had a digital clock in the flat, but I was no longer able to tell the time from it. One day I had to walk half a mile in the pouring rain to get to Big Ben so that I could work out when my train to the constituency was leaving."

In the end, a parliamentary colleague, Sam Gallraith, insisted that he see a doctor. A few weeks later, Dr Boyes sat in a hospital bed, calm as he listened to what amounted to a death sentence. "You must know," the consultant said carefully, "that there is such a thing as Alzheimer's disease."

Mr Boyes watched as the tears dampened his relatives' faces, but he did not break down that day. He did not intend to give in, and nor would those who loved

him permit him to do so. Exactly a year has passed, and he is sitting in the office where he, still an MP, works a full day, seeing his constituents and dealing with their problems. He has never before spoken about his illness. The marvel is that he can do so now. But he is funny, lucid and positive about his battle to overcome the disease. "We've just gone on with our normal life. You either slope down into nothingness or you get on with the job. That's what I have done."

In front of him is last year's pocket diary. "Look, I wanted to show you this. Thursday, February 16. I'd been at an animal welfare do in the evening, and afterwards I sat staring at the page. I couldn't work out how to get on to the next day's entry or how to get home. That was the most frightening moment."

To you and me now, it's easy, but I was suicidal. No, I don't want to use that word, but I was so scared. Oh, God."

And, though he shudders still at the terrible strain of pretending normality while his mental faculties eroded away, he was perhaps shielded from the worst.

To Pat, his wife of 34 years, the transformation was devastating. "I was used to this man who was so bright, who could speak to thousands at political rallies. And suddenly I had this child-man who just wanted to nurse the cat and sleep. He even looked different. His brow would be furrowed and his mouth down at the corners. I called it his Alzheimer's face."

But, at the time, she could only watch in puzzlement and frustration the dozing figure in the armchair at their home in Peterlee and think back to the college days when they first fell in love. "He just stood out of the crowd from the beginning. He dropped his aitches, and he was a rough diamond, but so bright and dominant and charismatic."

A former maths teacher

with a string of university degrees, Mr Boyes, now 59, rose through local government to be the MEP for Durham. Elected to Westminster in 1983, he moved swiftly to the Labour front bench — first with the environment team, then at defence. Had Neil Kinnock won the general election, ministerial office seemed likely.

All of that flashed through Pat Boyes's mind in the moment she was told what was wrong with him. "It was such a grey area. They said: 'Your husband has Alzheimer's, and there is no cure,' and I felt as if I was living in the Middle Ages. I thought, damn it, there must be something to help, and I'll find out what it is."

While she stepped up his intake of vitamins, magnesium and calcium, Roland was enrolled on the first clinically-controlled British trial of a new American drug, named E2020. He cannot know, until the findings are released next year, whether it is a useful treatment, but — whatever the cause — he felt less ill.

At home, Pat, a retired infant school teacher, taught

him to tell the time again with a child's toy clock. In hospital, outpatient staff encouraged him to perform simple tasks. "They got me to draw a cube and write my address on an envelope. They'd show me a baby's rattle and ask me to tell them what it was for."

"For a while I couldn't talk at all. It was as if I was living in blackness." As the darkness receded sufficiently for him to travel to Westminster for key votes, he decided that — whatever his fate — he should strive to help others. A brilliant photographer, he has undertaken to raise £30,000 for a scientific photography suite in a new centre planned by the Alzheimer's Research Trust. "I know there are people worse than me, and I want to help because Alzheimer's is a terrible illness — the worst you can have."

"But no, I'm not resentful that it happened to me." Instead he was welcoming when the new Labour candidate for the seat he will give up

at the general election dropped by to visit. Only Pat Boyes, who had watched her husband's tenacious fight for political recognition, almost wept on his behalf.

Where is the real Roland? she wanted to cry. Come back to me. And then, calmer, she took him off to book their holiday on a cruise ship. This year he filled in the forms unaided and paid with his gold card. Last year, she could not leave his side to swim, for fear that he would wander off and get lost.

Another step forward, but she yearns for more. "He's so different from the old Roland, but flashes are coming through. He is improving. It may be the drugs. It may be the vitamins. We're desperate, you see. We'll try anything."

And still, as she knows, there is no scope here for miracles. Only the hope that money and medicine will eventually provide an answer. "That's all we want: a cure to be found for this dreadful Cinderella disease that no one wants to talk about. A future for Roland... and for all the others."

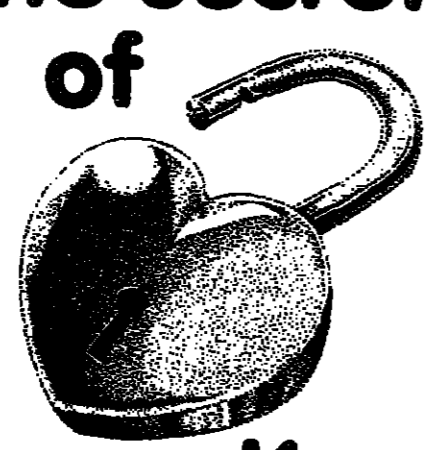
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He's so different, but there are flashes of the old Roland

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A former maths teacher

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Sister Frigidaire v Steel Magnolia

Beneath America's presidential election, a more subtle battle is promised. Martin Fletcher on the contest between Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Dole

As Bob Dole and Bill Clinton prepare to slug it out in America's impending presidential election, the most intriguing subplot is what promises to be an epic proxy battle between their wives.

Elizabeth Dole and Hillary Rodham Clinton are known respectively as the Steel Magnolia and Sister Frigidaire. Both boast *Who's Who* entries longer than their husbands', testaments to their apparently limitless energy and determination to achieve.

Mrs Clinton's campaigning zeal is well documented. In Elizabeth Dole, however, she appears to have met her match. Mrs Dole spends so much time on the road that she and her husband Bob, the Republican presidential nominee and Senate leader, fax their daily schedules to each other.

Indeed, when these two incurable workaholics celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary last year, she was in Iowa and he in Washington. Each had special dinners delivered to the other and ate them while talking on the telephone.

One of Mrs Dole's favourite toys is a torch-pen that allows her to draw up-to-do lists in the night without waking her husband on the rare occasions they are home together in their small flat in Washington's Watergate complex.

Once, when she was asleep before he returned and had to leave before he woke, she remembered he was addressing a group she had spoken to the previous day. She stuck a message on the bathroom mirror that read: "Don't use the joke about making the bed, I already used it."

To say she is formidable is clearly an understatement. In Elizabeth Dole, the First Lady has finally encountered a woman every bit as smart, driven and accomplished as herself.

Elizabeth Hanford was born 59 years ago to a wealthy family in Salisbury, North Carolina. She was raised a southern belle —

riding, taking ballet lessons and attending debutantes' balls — an upbringing far removed from Mrs Clinton's modest childhood in the suburbs of Chicago. But her subsequent résumé easily matches the First Lady's.

Mrs Clinton, who is 48, was class president at the prestigious Wellesley College. Mrs Dole was Duke University's student president and May Queen. Mrs Clinton went on to Yale Law School. Mrs Dole, after a brief stint at Oxford, went on to Harvard Law School.

From Yale, Mrs Clinton went to Washington as a lawyer for the congressional Watergate committee that voted to impeach President Nixon, then married Bill and moved to Arkansas where she taught then practised law. From Harvard Mrs Dole, at that time a registered Democrat, went to Washington to work in Lyndon Johnson's White House and never left.

When Nixon replaced LBJ, Mrs Dole abandoned the Democrats and somehow contrived to remain in the new Republican White House. In 1973 Nixon made her a Federal Trade Commissioner. In 1981, after *The New York Times* had described her as

"one of the most stunning women in Washington", President Reagan made her Transportation Secretary. In 1988 President Bush made her Labour Secretary and the only woman ever to hold Cabinet posts in two different administrations.



Let battle begin... Hillary Clinton, left, has met in Elizabeth Dole a woman every bit as driven as herself

Three years later Mrs Dole became head of the American Red Cross. She has never had children but claims her public service more than compensates.

Like Mrs Clinton, she is a devout Methodist, and spends 30

minutes every day reading the Bible. Like Mrs Clinton, she has an almost evangelical desire to improve the world; but there the similarities end.

Despite all her work on behalf of women and children, Mrs Clinton

still frequently comes across as cold, domineering and self-righteous. She crusades, but too often appears to love humanity only in the abstract. She flaunts her feminism in a deeply conservative country.

Mrs Dole is far subtler in her methods. She conceals her inner steel and ambition beneath a gracious southern charm. She has that ability to make everyone she meets feel special, looking them in the eye and holding a handshake for some few extra seconds. Above all, she shrewdly mutes her independence.

Mrs Dole would never insist on being called Elizabeth Hanford Dole the way Mrs Clinton insists on being called Hillary Rodham Clinton. She would never sarcastically tell critics that "I could have stayed home, baked cookies and had tea". While Mrs Clinton refuses to appear subservient, Mrs Dole has four times taken protracted leaves of absence from top jobs to help Bob Dole's presidential and vice-presidential campaigns.

Mrs Dole would certainly not be a passive and ornamental First Lady, but recoils from the idea of becoming a significant public player in her husband's administration as Mrs Clinton did so disastrously when she tried to reform America's healthcare system.

Her approach is more incremental. If her husband wins, she plans to return to her \$200,000-a-year Red Cross job and become the First President's wife to work full-time outside the White House. That much the American public would probably swallow because the Red Cross is a charity and First Ladies are supposed to do good works.

She is, says Senator Dole, a "sensible feminist" who "doesn't threaten anybody".

Mrs Clinton may be more honest about her role and have the greater courage of her convictions, but she has made herself an irresistible target in the process. She has spawned a legion of enemies bent on destroying her. She has suffered endless investigations of her private and professional life. She has become the most polarising and unpopular First Lady on record, and the only one ever subpoenaed to appear before a Federal Grand Jury.

By contrast, nobody has shown much appetite for investigating Mrs Dole's financial affairs, though her personal wealth has increased and questions have been raised about her blind trusts. A recent poll in *The Washington Post* showed her fans outnumbered her detractors by three to one.

Mrs Dole offers warmth and vitality to offset her husband's dourness. She gives astute political advice. She exploits the compelling story of his near-fatal war wounds and the long battle to recover in a way her reticent husband cannot.

The Republicans are confident she will be one of their greatest assets during the next eight months and Mrs Clinton one of the President's biggest liabilities, and while direct attacks on the First Lady might be counter-productive they will seize every chance to contrast the two women.

In any comparison... Elizabeth Dole is going to come out wonderfully well," said one Dole campaign strategist. If Mr Dole does win in November, his wife's reward will be, at long last, a house of her own — at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. When the Doles married in 1975 she moved temporarily into her husband's Watergate bachelor pad, fully intending to buy a proper home at the earliest opportunity. Somehow they never found time.

Let us be proud of our dimples, says Tunku Varadarajan



I am not, and never will be, a feminist man. I don't think women should be in the Armed Forces, or drive forklift trucks, or play games like rugby, or drink from pint glasses, or be restaurant chiefs or fail to wear make-up. But the fairer sex, I have to stress, has my ungrudging support on one bodily issue — that of cellulite.

Royal thighs: the Princess at the Chelsea Harbour Club

Let us face the too, too solid facts: many of us suffer from cellulite, and there are as many unhappy male cellulitists out there as there are women who think their stomachs are unsightly. And as the tabloids have now told us this week, the Princess of Wales has also joined the cellulite-

afflicted battalions; travelling to her chic riverside fitness club in a coat long enough to veil every blemish on the royal thighs.

There is no body yet devised which does not succumb to the

your husband's stomach as it jiggles with every movement of his foaming toothbrush, on the large-bikini buttocks which thunder past you on a holiday beach, on the undulating "love handles" of the coarse builder who paves your drive in summer.

Yet it is women — only women — who are under pressure to do something about it. Of course we all want women to have lovely, shapely thighs, undimpled stomachs and buttocks without lumps. But are the hassle and fuss about cellulite, the stiff cost involved in keeping it at bay and the accompanying neuroses which drive otherwise healthful women to tears, really things which our society should be proud of?

No, I say, and with vehemence. Let there be cellulite, and let women have it, too.

In praise of cellulite

Why can't we throw away those all-over body rubs, those seaweed-based gels, those elasticated bandages, those detoxifying clay solutions, those lymphatic therapies? Forget the bras... why can't we just make a giant bonfire of all those gauze wraps, those cellulite-fighting inflatable plastic boots, those

heated encasements? Why don't we take all those fat-reducing aminophylline creams, those coagulants, those polysyllabic formulae, those "essential oils for the mature woman" — and dump the whole slimy lot in the high seas a hundred miles from Rockall? The truth is simple cellulite is nothing but fat, a substance which women's bodies tend to specialise in to an extent greater than those of men. It is neither a disease nor an affliction and has, in fact, rather a pretty name. Cellulite. How much more charming it would seem to us if it rhymed with Aphrodite. Perhaps Auden, then, would have written his *Hymn to St Cecilia* thus:

Blonde Cellulite rose up excited Moved to delight by the melody White as an orchid she rode quite naked In an oyster shell on top of the sea.

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When should you shop the boss?

Giles Coren on the growing pressures to become the office sneak

BEN GUNN, the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, must be feeling as betrayed as his shaggy-haired namesake in *Treasure Island*. In Stevenson's novel Gunn was marooned by his fellow pirates — now he has been left high and dry again, nabbed for speeding by his own officers.

It is becoming more common for underlings to turn on their employers. MPs are examining the Public Interest Disclosure Bill, which seeks to protect individuals who blow the whistle. Its plans to protect them from dismissal will be some consolation to the traffic cops who eschewed loyalty to the boss for loyalty to the public.

For while Mr Gunn's career is sure to survive the outcry, can they hope for the same leniency?

When the head of research for Brown & Williamson Tobacco, in America, gave evidence that his former employees had lied about a "safer cigarette", teams of private investigators were called in to discredit him, and he lost his job. Just as Manchester United forward Andrei Kanchelskis lost his, after openly condemning manager Alex Ferguson.

The explosion of the Columbia space shuttle, and the disasters at Piper Alpha and Zeebrugge are all thought to have been avoidable, had employees only shopped their bosses. While in America you can buy a guide on "When to Rat on the Boss" the practice had been considered un-British — as spealing on friends.

But now a whistle-blowers' charity has been set up, Public Concern at Work, and Stephen Dorrell's exhortation to doctors to expose incompetent colleagues has been labelled the "whistle-blower's charter". The stakeholder is dead. Long live the whistle-blower.

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Beware a slaughter too far

An open letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, from Nicholas Budgen

Dear Douglas, I hope that a word of warning from a small farmer and hack provincial barrister will not be considered too impertinent, even though it is addressed to a successful minister and distinguished silk. Just two points. One: breeding herds and dairy herds are different. Two: a European compulsory slaughter policy on these herds will be very difficult to enforce.

A preliminary word of sympathy. Your confusion is reflected in the confusion of the British people. I'm sorry that you had a bit of trouble at first with Ken Clarke. He is right about the money. The farmers are a bit like lawyers working on legal aid. They consider themselves independent gentlemen and yet want as much as possible of the taxpayers' money. You can bet that any compensation scheme will be more expensive than anticipated.

Why are breeding herds and dairy herds different? I'm not sure that I can explain or justify my assertion but I can tell you that they are. We draw strange lines in our relations with animals. You, I believe, do a bit of rough shooting. I don't want to stop anyone else shooting but I do not want to shoot myself. Yet I have hunted all my life.

Farmers draw a line between the animals to go to slaughter and those kept for breeding and milking. When Daisy can no longer milk well or produce a suckler calf, we send her to the barren cow market. We send her with regret, but it is all part of the cycle of life and death on the farm. There seems nothing wrong about it. It does not matter much to the farmer whether McDonald's, the British taxpayer or the European Union pays for dead Daisy.

You have already come a long way since your first suggestion that you would buy up the barren cows voluntarily. Your friends in Europe last week forced you into the 30-month rule. Under the amendment order of April 3, no person may sell for human consumption any meat derived from a bovine animal aged over two years and six months. As you know, this doesn't have much effect upon the beef market. They get fat before 30 months. However, an unknown proportion of bullocks are traditionally killed at ages over two-and-a-half years. Some people estimate that up to 80 per cent of fatted bullocks are sold over the age limit. They are each worth between £800 and £1,000. This sum could be multiplied by between a quarter and half-a-million bullocks. As Ken would point out, quite a bit of tax relief.

You are on a dangerous slope over the compulsory slaughtering of selected herds. You told the House of Commons last week that you were "looking at" some plans for selective slaughter of herds at high risk of BSE. This is not how it is understood in the

Commission. They believe that you have agreed to bring forward such plans at the end of the month. Worse, we hear that the French and the Germans will only help if we help on their proposals elsewhere — for instance, over the ERM. So there is a real chance that you will be forced into taking action which you regard as unnecessary and disproportionate. (I suppose they have got you by the system of qualified majority voting.)

Touch the herds and you're in for trouble. For a farmer who keeps animals, his herd is the centre of his life. He has tended it. He has got up at 5am every morning to milk the cows. Even a part-time beef farmer has calved cows in the middle of the night. He has given up time and money and leisure to improve his herd. To kill the herd is to kill a part of him and his family.

So you think that this is a silly, sentimental view which will not be reflected in the attitude of modern farmers? Well, get your officials to look up the records of foot-and-mouth disease in the late 1960s. The disease was contagious. The slaughter policy was based upon scientific evidence. The policy was agreed by everyone in authority to be a necessity, however unpleasant. The law was the domestic law. Yet for all this, many professionals will tell you of farmers and their wives who stood at the end of their drives, shotguns at the ready, determined to repel the Ministry men.

A row now over the compulsory slaughter of herds will show the difference between European and domestic law. You have already demolished any justification for a compulsory slaughter policy. You said at the beginning that the worldwide ban on our exports was not based upon scientific evidence and was unjust and disproportionate. The compulsory slaughter policy will be a part of the price of buying off a ban that ought never to have been upon us. Further, there's no scientific evidence to support the slaughter of herds.

What about the rule of law, you will ask. Well, we strain the rule of law by telling our people that we cannot change our European masters and legislators and that we have no hope of amending their unjust and cruel laws.

I wonder if Britain will obey laws requiring the compulsory slaughter of breeding stock and dairy herds. Just think of the images on television. The crying farmer, the distressed wife, the distraught stockmen. The ICTV pushing carcasses on to a great fire or into a vast pit. You appearing on *Newsnight* to explain to Jeremy Paxman that there is no scientific justification for the slaughter. Who will the British public support? Of course, you'll get the blame. The cause of Euroscepticism will get the benefit.

Yours ever, Nicholas

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

You are on a slippery slope with compulsory slaughter

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Wine, women and Labour

Why should rich socialists like the Folletts prefer tea to champagne?

Like most journalists I have often thought it would be pleasant to make my fortune by writing a bestseller, but have seldom got beyond the first page, let alone the first chapter. As readers might guess, my imagination leans towards the historical romantic fiction of A.E.W. Mason or the Baroness Orczy. Not for me the heroics of the racecourse, the American bar, the prisoner-of-war camp or M16. I preferred the more leisurely adventures that could be set in earlier centuries, in a period not only before John le Carré, or Ian Fleming, but even before John Buchan.

I have only been left with a few opening lines: "Colonel von Blitzen's monocle fell into the brown Windsor soup. 'Mein Gott, mein Gott!' he spluttered." "The prime minister lovingly lit his cigar: 'I need a couple of million tonight, Rothschild, to buy the Suez Canal.'" "The shot ran out; the bullet penetrated the ribbon of his VC and penetrated the honest heart that beat beneath it." "As he kissed her swan-like neck, his cavalry moustache caught awkwardly in the lacing of her bodice." "The ace of spades was damned," he whispered, and fell back dead into her arms."

It can be seen that any of these lines might have been the start of a real page-turner, but my trouble is that I have no narrative fluency. I could never work out what might happen next.

Nevertheless, the experience of repeated failure has made me realise how difficult it is to write a bestseller, and given me a proper respect for those who have mastered the art. I even have great respect for Jeffrey Archer, who has done what I failed to do. Naturally, this admiration extends to Ken Follett. I have several of his novels in paperback on my shelves, most of which I have read while flying the Atlantic. In the days when I was a trade publisher, I would have signed almost any contract to persuade him to write for Sidgwick & Jackson. It is said that his books have been so successful that he, like Lord Archer, is more than a millionaire.

Ken Follett is a supporter of the Labour Party, and his wife, Barbara, is actually the Labour candidate for Stevenage, a marginal Tory seat which Labour expects to win. In Tuesday's *Times* Julia Llewellyn Smith wrote a most intriguing ac-

count of the back-biting that has followed. The Folletts are accused of being "champagne socialists" — presumably a lesser offence than Nye Bevan's role as a "Bollinger Bolshevik" at the court of Lord Beaverbrook.

The local criticisms cover a number of points. "I think she has been here to try and get on," says one Labour volunteer. "I can't understand someone with all that money coming in as a Labour candidate. I'm not happy about that Follett woman. What does she know about the people in Stevenage and their problems?" asks an unemployed Labour supporter.

"Why does she need another house? She should have given it to the homeless."

Despite the fact that the Folletts have sponsored the kit of the top-scoring striker at Stevenage Borough Football Club — something that would never have occurred to me — Barbara Follett is also criticised for not talking to the young voters who go to the Yorkshire Grey pub, which is the Folletts' local. These young people are said to earn £100 a week, which does not seem a lot, and to spend £95 of it on Friday and Saturday nights, which sounds imprudent, if the landlord has got his figures right. There is also some criticism about a planning application, but there always is.

At first sight one can take a certain pleasure in the discomfort of the Folletts, which will, after all, be much assuaged when Barbara Follett is duly returned as the Member of Parliament for Stevenage at the next election. The Labour Party has made social envy part of its stock-in-trade from the beginning.

Now that Labour has become the preferred choice of many well-to-do middle-class people, they can only expect to get a taste of their own medicine. As a first reaction, that is fair enough. Britain is a country which is steeped in the boring self-pity of inverted snobbery; where Americans admire success, we tend to treat it as some sort of personality

defect: the Labour Party has reinforced this odious social attitude, which is just as bad as ordinary snobbery; we can afford a brief period of satisfaction.

It should only be a brief period. No doubt the Labour Party has played on the social envy that exists in British culture, but it is not confined to the Labour Party. Unfortunately, it is endemic, and, if anything, seems to be getting worse. The sourness of the National Union of Teachers' conference, and its dominance by anti-democratic, left-wing factions, is symptomatic of this green-eyed social bitterness. Even the Conservative Party is by no means free of these jealousies.

No doubt Barbara Follett does want to "get on". She has a proper ambition to get into Parliament, and has been prepared to put a lot of work into achieving it. This is her third attempt. Even this ambition is seen as an object of envy by her more mean-minded supporters. Perhaps overweening ambition can be a fault, but Barbara Follett is not some kind of dandy Napoleon, willing to sacrifice millions to her personal glory. She is simply a hard-working woman with a social conscience. One may disagree with her politics, but it is important that able people should sacrifice their time and comfort to political work.

Nobody can say that the Folletts are likely to benefit personally from the policies of the Labour Party. No doubt they are rich; by British, though not by American or Hong Kong standards, they may be exceptionally rich. That means that they already pay substantial income taxes. Despite this Government's unsatisfactory tax record, the Conservatives are likely on average to impose lower marginal rates of income tax than Labour. That difference may or may not prove a large one, but whatever it may be, the Folletts are not acting in their own personal interest in supporting Labour.

Then there is champagne. I do not

know how much champagne is actually consumed by champagne socialists. Bismarck calculated that he had drunk 10,000 bottles of champagne and smoked 50,000 cigars in his lifetime. But he is usually, though perhaps wrongly, regarded as a man of the Right. My impression is that champagne socialists are really dry white wine socialists nowadays, a good white burgundy from Berry Brothers in the Hampshire set, and something quite acceptable from the Napa Valley in Islington.

Whatever it is, drinkable wine is a sign of humanity. One of the troubles of the Labour Party has been its inheritance of the cold traditions of English puritanism. In the most successful Labour administration, Clement Attlee's from 1945 to 1951, austerity was valued for its own sake, particularly by Sir Stafford Cripps, and was imposed on people who did not share this puritan ethic. Even today Tony Benn combines left-wing orthodoxy with totalitarianism, and would, I imagine, view Tony Blair's set as both unacceptably right-wing and as too pleasure-loving for his taste.

William Rees-Mogg

One of my own objections to socialist theory is that socialists so often do get the wine issue wrong. They think that no one should drink champagne unless everyone can do so. I believe in the politics of pluralism, which were so well described by John Locke. "The mind has a different relish, as well as the palate; and you will as fruitlessly endeavour to delight all men with riches or glory (which yet some men place their happiness in) as you would satisfy all men's hunger with cheese or lobsters, which though very agreeable and delicious fare to some, are to others extremely nauseous and offensive... Men may choose different things, and yet all choose right, supposing them only like a company of poor insects, whereof some are bees, delighted with flowers and their sweetness, others beetles, delighted with other kinds of viands."

If the Folletts do prefer chilled champagne to stewed tea, that is their choice, and I shall toast in Pol Roger their right to enjoy it. I regard them as numbered among the busy bees, willing to work hard for the flowers and sweetness of life.

Making friends of the fiends

Magnus Linklater on how to handle violent children

The cemetery in the small mining town of Larkhall, Lanarkshire, was vandalised at Easter. Nearly 100 headstones, some of them dating back more than a century, were wrenched from the grass, smashed or upended. Visitors on Easter Monday were confronted with a scene of desecration where once there had been a neat, well-tended graveyard.

A wrecked cemetery is always a shocking sight — this was a crude and cowardly act of destruction — but what made things worse in this case was that it seemed to have been the work of teenagers, some even younger. Larkhall, where acts of random violence have become almost a way of life, has been described as a town under siege from young people.

Larkhall is by no means unique. Further north, the headmaster of a school in the gentle town of Forfar has had to campaign to stop his younger pupils using obscene words as a routine part of their vocabulary. This week's conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers heard evidence that some three-year-olds now cause such mayhem in class that they have to be sent home from nurseries. A friend of mine, who teaches young children in London says that this year's intake is the most difficult she has ever had to manage.

"A generation without rules", is the way one commentator describes those young people who have no structure to their home lives, whose parents may be separated or simply absent, or who are deprived of the normal routine of family life. With no codes of behaviour and no conventional relationships to guide them, it is unsurprising if they drop out of society. These are children who have lost their place.

What is more disturbing is the resentment that may go with that. A generation for whom society has little to offer may simply turn against it, extracting retribution for a suffering they cannot resolve in any other way. Smashing gravestones, terrorising a village, or making a young teacher's life hell may be the only way they have of averting their sense of loss.

But whatever the root causes of youth violence, the end product is depressingly predictable — a steady progression of young offenders passing through juvenile courts, secure accommodation and then prison. Britain has the largest prison population in Europe, and it is in the disjointed families, the unruly classrooms or the teenage street gangs that the problems begin.

That is where it should be tackled: prevention rather than punishment should be the guiding principle. That, however, is not how the judicial system in England and Wales works. The Home Office response is to build yet more prisons or to explore American-style strategies which offer short, sharp shocks rather than long-term recovery programmes. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has a simplistic response to violent crime — lock up the offenders and keep them off the streets for as long as possible. But this leaves little chance of developing a penal policy that attempts to deal with the problem before children grow up.

In Scotland, the children's panel system — the nearest equivalent to an English juvenile court — takes as its starting point the needs rather than the needs of a child in trouble. Its decisions carry legal weight, but it has no punitive role. Instead, it seeks to address the circumstances which have brought a child before it. A case may be referred by police, social worker or school. The child may be involved in truancy, petty crime, abuse or anything that seems likely to put a child at risk. The panel can convene everyone involved in the case — parents, teachers, social workers or friends — to discuss the background and to come up with decisions aimed at addressing the root cause of the problem rather than assigning blame.

The panel may make a supervision order, thus putting a child under the care of a social work department, refer a child to a special school, place it with foster parents, or, in extreme cases, recommend that a child be held in secure accommodation if the child or the public is at risk. The panel's decisions are under constant review, and a case may be referred back. This provides a chance to monitor the progress of a child at risk and learn about the family background, before coming up with possible solutions.

An offender below the age of 16 will always be referred initially to a children's panel rather than a court. If the child denies charges, the case will be referred to a sheriff's court. Once proof has been established the case will come back to the children's panel, not to assign punishment but to seek a way forward.

The children's panel system is now without its faults: it has found no answer to the teenage gangs of Larkhall. But it is certainly a more humane and far-sighted approach to a lost generation than anything available in England and Wales, or even the rest of Europe. It was a Scottish judge, Lord Kilbrandon, who recommended it in the first place. Perhaps Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, should follow suit.

Brute force

THE BRITISH chairman of the Tory party, Brian Mawhinney, has been busting blood vessels in a vain attempt to win today's by-election in Staffordshire. For the first time ever, every single person on the candidates' list, which contains some 700 names, has been ordered up to Tamworth to help campaign.

At the crack of dawn for the past few days, a minibus destined for Tamworth has been gurgling into life outside Central Office. For the red-eyed souls inside, this latest brainwave from a hyperactive Tory machine is a step too far.

The poor things have been told they must do four days of door-knocking and flesh-pressing, two days before the campaign started and two days during it. They have even been issued with clocking-in cards which they must have marked off by stony-faced Central Office operatives in the constituency.

The heavy-handedness certainly looks like the work of Mawhinney. His sinister Ulster brogue has had the staff of Central Office scampering around like electrified cats recently.

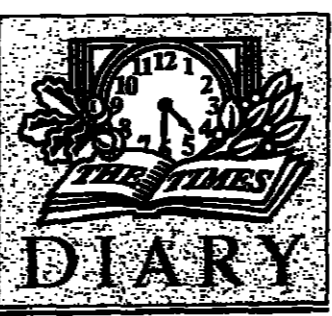
"Clearly, if you want to be a Conservative candidate you have to show willing," said a Tory spokesman up in Tamworth. "The cards are just so that those who do come up have a proof of their battle honour." Not all the names on the list are happy about this jack-bootish test. "Four days is a bit much," said one, "and this clocking in smacks of the shop-floor."

● The bomb-proof window of the Parliamentary Book Shop in Westminster has been shattered by an angry granny. Her motive unknown, the old girl wrought havoc the other night when she

strings to indulge his wife — the recital will be awash with free champagne from Moët & Chandon, one of his little companies.

● Should Tony Blair feel homesick in New York today, he might care to pop in to the Carlyle Hotel, where Baroness Thatcher will be staying. The Labour leader's political heroine is over in America on another of her lecture tours and is said to be growing irritated by her audiences. After going to the trouble of preparing a statesmanlike lecture on global affairs, the first question she is almost inevitably asked is: "Can you tell us about Charles and Di?"

● Teething problems for the Prince of Wales have encouraged a Cambrian toffee maker to alter his recipe. Neil Boustead, of Neil's Toffee Shop in Penrith, has been supplying Highgrove with jaw-straining treacle toffee for some time. "But we are now planning a new treacle judge because he told me traditional treacle toffee pulls his fillings out."



bashed the picture window repeatedly with her handbag.

Blood brother

AS Liberia tears itself apart once more, some extraordinary names are playing their part. Aside from the headline-grabbing Roosevelt Johnson and his rebel forces, the Liberia Peace Council, who are anything but peaceful, boast a teenaged Major-General Ambush Rebel. Presumably, he is some relation of the famed Liberian, Brigadier-General Ambush Rebel.

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Hélène Mercier-Arnault and the Princess of Wales

night, where one of the smartest ladies of the fashion world is to give a piano recital.

Hélène Mercier-Arnault, whose husband Bernard runs suitcase-makers Louis Vuitton, will risk her nail varnish on the keyboards for invited friends including the Princess of Wales and Madame Chirac. An accomplished performer, who first played when she was six, she is a good friend of the Princess and accompanied her to the Cézanne exhibition in Paris.

Bernard has been pulling a few

Disjoined

JAMES GROUT is an actor of undoubted courage. Although best known for his role as Chief Superintendent Strange in *Inspector Morse*, his most exciting appearance to date was as a 60-year-old, well-rounded history professor who prepared his lectures in the nude in the series *A Very Peculiar Practice*.

So I feel bound to report that it wasn't his nerve that let him down in his latest role, but his knees. Just a few weeks after he opened as Talbot in *Mary Stuart*, at the National Theatre, his understudy has now



On his knees: James Grouit is praying for the pain to pass

taken over. Set designers are to blame, for their sloping stage has proved too much for the Grouit cartilage, and an old knee injury has flared up. "His doctor advised him to rest his knees," says a stagehand.

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THE EMPTY PEW

Revealed truth, not "resources", will bring the young to God

The Jesuits believed that if they had a child until he was seven they would have him for life. Jealous of every wayward soul, churches throughout history have been anxious to capture the young before another denomination, or the Devil, claimed them. The Church of England, then, is understandably worried about the drop, by a third over the past nine years, in the number of young people in its pews. But the recommendations of the Church's own working party appear unlikely to arrest, let alone reverse, the decline.

Written in the prose of the management manual rather than the Authorised Version, it betrays a cast of mind which is bureaucratic and passionless. The national Church is withering, with a dramatic decline in attendance among the most impressionable and spiritually hungry section of the population, and the working party is obsessed with "resources".

The first recommendation the working party makes is to assert that, "the allocation of resources is paramount". To that end it urges the Church as a whole to examine its budget and recommends an "audit of resources allocated to youth work". Reading these arid thoughts it is impossible not to ask if the authors, including the Bishop of Carlisle, are really the apostolic heirs of martyrs and evangelists or ersatz accountants. How does the Church expect to attract young people, anxious to find an alternative to materialism and searching for the spiritual when its first answer to any problem is financial? Rather than prating about resource reallocation, the Church should spend all its energies preaching the Gospel. By doing just that, other churches have flourished.

The pattern of teenage life is now such that the Church youth group or scout troop plays an ever smaller part in the social life of the young. But that does not mean the interest in the eternal questions of existence which is

the best route to religious faith has diminished. By presenting an unapologetic Christianity, evangelical and pentecostal churches have attracted, and held, a growing congregation among the young.

The style of worship is accessible but, more importantly, the theology and morality are demanding. By seeking to ape the informality of its rivals the Church of England has mistakenly attributed their appeal to the style of service and not the substance of the sermons. A few choruses on the guitar will not satisfy the questing soul in the way that honest engagement with the challenge of Christianity can.

The style of worship is not, however, irrelevant; indeed there is every indication that modernising the Anglican liturgy has had an effect on attendance — it has hastened its decline. The same barren prose of the Church's working party report characterises current worship. In the beginning was the Word; and language, as much as anything, has kept this country Christian. The incomparable beauty of the King James Bible and Book of Common Prayer which drew generations of Englishmen to God has been replaced in the past 30 years by a liturgy already anachronistic and unequal to communicating the sense of mystery and awe central to worship. Intended to appeal to modern tastes, it failed because people turn to the Church not for fashion, but for transcendent and timeless truth.

Restless innovation will not reverse the Anglican Church's decline. The last time the national churches, in England and Scotland, experienced a dramatic revival was when, as a result of the Oxford Movement and the Disruption respectively, their clergy returned to their roots. Perhaps the Church should recognise that the young will, like the prodigal son, come back to faith anyway after sowing some wild oats. But that return will be more likely if the Church remains on firm foundations.

OUT OF LIBERIA

The West should not wash its hands of this wretched case

For the second time this decade, America has rushed troops to Liberia. Their sole mission, as it was in 1990, is to spirit American and other foreign nationals out of Monrovia, the miserable capital of a country morally as well as physically bankrupted by an exceptionally vicious civil war. The US has an obvious duty to protect its nationals and Liberian battle-zones are as anarchic as they are brutal. Since Roosevelt Johnson, the warlord who provoked the latest confrontation, had seized hundreds of hostages as human shields, evacuation was prudent. But Washington's concern should not end there. The US, whose freed slaves founded Liberia as a state, cannot escape the consequences of its continuing influence there; if it is seen to be "washing its hands of this wretched case", that could tip the scales back to war.

The renewed fighting exposes the ragged nature of the peace deal between Liberia's armed factions but does not yet make its total breakdown inevitable. Since Charles Taylor, the most powerful of Liberia's seven murderous warlords, unleashed the civil war in 1989, the rivals for the victor's spoils have signed, and broken, around 20 cease-fires and a dozen externally brokered peace accords. But the most recent of these, signed last August, holds out more hope than most. That is not because Liberia's soldier-bandits have been seized by contrition, but because their respective ambitions are now more likely to be furthered by peace.

This war has been driven not by ideology nor even, despite the tensions between the Americo-Liberians and the 16 indigenous tribes, by tribal hatreds, but by the insatiable greed of the faction-leaders. After six years of massacres, looting and pillage, the houses have lost even their doorframes, the railbeds have no rails and the streets no lampposts. Ecomog, the West African force deployed in 1990 to restore peace, has prevented some atrocities. But its ill-paid

soldiers have joined the looting; the bitter local joke is that Ecomog's acronym means "Every Car or Moveable Object Gone".

By last August, there was so little left to steal at gunpoint that the three most powerful of these bandit soldiers decided that they had a common interest in signing up to a ceasefire, demobilisation and elections later this year. They calculate that if they stop fighting, the coffers will be replenished with emergency aid and investment, from which they can then take their cut.

The root of the current trouble is that the peace deal made some warlords — notably Mr Taylor, the probable victor if elections go ahead — more equal than others. In theory, Liberia has been governed since August by a six-member transitional council, including civilians. In practice, power has been carved up between Mr Taylor, George Boley and Alhaji Kromah, in a tactical alliance that has nothing to do with the patriotism, peace or democracy proclaimed in the flowery titles their respective militias bear. Mr Johnson, given only a minor government post, busied himself with looting aid convoys and illegal diamond mining until his commanders ousted him as leader of his own breakaway faction. When the council then sacked him, he began a ferocious armed revolt; it culminated in last weekend's attempt by the ruling council to arrest him on charges of murder.

Mr Johnson has promised to turn himself over to Ecomog or UN observers. If he does, peace still has a slim chance. However imperfectly, Ecomog is doing a job that the West is not willing to do. It needs Western financial help to boost its force levels and — effectively — to bribe the militias to disarm. Liberia's traumatised people, nearly half of whom have fled their homes, cannot rebuild their lives alone. Donors will have to work with Liberia's criminal warlords, knowing that much Western aid will go astray. They should hold their noses, and help.

OF TUBBY MICE AND MEN

What mouse genes tell us about the middle-age spread

One of the greatest pleasures of middle age is to find out that one always has the right answer. A less happy feature of the same age, however, is to find out that one quite often has the wrong shape.

Middle age — when one can do just as much as ever, but would rather not — is the time when most bodies expand and some thinners shrink. It is the time when those horizons shrink. It is the time when those slipp lurches of several years cause chests to "slip lurches of the mezzanine floor" (as Jeeves once put it vividly), and when the only thing that gets thinner is the hair on the head. And only mice can provoke poignant laments like this one, by the late (but not light) Lord Goodman: "Every so often I lose weight, and, to my horror and indignation, I find in the quiet of the night somebody has put it back on."

But help for the rotund, and a break-through for fatties, are now at hand from a rough for fatties, are now at hand from a most unlikely source. A laboratory in Maine, whose research is published in the today's issue of *Nature*, has found that the pattern of portliness in the "tubby mouse" — a natural mutation from the common or laboratory mouse — "strongly resembles the late-onset obesity seen in the middle-aged population". In other words, the middle-aged tubby mouse expands around the waist

in much the same manner, say, as a stalwart of the Garrick Club, a school headmistress or a senior shop steward.

There is more. This circumferentially-challenged rodent can apparently blame its portliness on the sweetly-named "mouse chromosome 7", whose genes reveal a misspelling in their DNA sequence. The researchers believe that there must — somewhere, some place, some paunch — be the middle-aged human equivalent of mouse chromosome 7, and that the corrective process by which the roly-poly gene is tackled in tubby mice might also help make svelte Jack Sprats of those 50-something men who are at present broadish in the beam.

How very pleasant it would be for us all if these nice American researchers are correct in their conjecture. Let us hope they are, and that we all have a mouse chromosome 7 lodged in our adipose deposits. It would deliver one at a stroke from such evils as exercise, diets, weight-watching, low-calorie tonic water, fat-free whisky and salads. Thanks to the tubby mouse and mouse chromosome 7, one could succumb to the lure of excess, and be seduced by the siren call of gluttony and indulgence. Nothing, as wild Oscar wrote, succeeds like excess. And after all, one is only middle-aged once.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Farming outlook in BSE aftermath

From Sir Michael Spicer, MP for Worcestershire South (Conservative)

Sir, The crisis facing British agriculture in general and the beef industry in particular has not gone away over the Easter holidays. On the contrary April 29, the deadline laid down by European agricultural ministers for Britain to propose an "acceptable" cow-slaughter policy, looms closer.

The European "offer" to pay 70 per cent of the cost of destroying much of our beef and milk herds would, if accepted, mean in practice that the British taxpayer would put up over 80 per cent of the cash — given that three quarters of the payments made by the other European countries would be set against rebates at present due to Britain under common agricultural policy (CAP) arrangements. We would also have to contribute towards the cost of destroying British-bred cattle in France and Holland.

Since the contribution of the other European countries would be negligible, two things follow. First, we should only contemplate slaughtering cows whose death is in the direct proven interest of British consumers and beef producers. We should certainly not pander to the dictates of competitive interests on the continent of Europe.

Secondly it will probably be best (certainly cheaper) to pay for it all ourselves directly rather than to engage in the wasteful charade of recycling our money through the European Union.

If this means the de facto return to a nationally-based deficiency payments system and the beginning of the end of the CAP, so be it. The CAP will in any event need to be replaced if the countries of Eastern Europe are ever to join the EU.

Yours faithfully,
 MICHAEL SPICER,
 House of Commons,
 April 8.

Future of Nato for Europe's defence

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, The views John Redwood advances in his article, "Saving Europe from itself" (March 29), suggest he has not been following recent developments in United States opinions and policies very closely.

Baroness Thatcher has, in her Fulton speech (report and leading article, March 11) she made perfectly clear the choice that lies before us: either (as she advocates) we hand up our security to the United States President for him to manage — the Nato Alliance becoming "a permanent one resting on the solid foundations of American leadership"; or we don't, and we look after it as best we can among all these Europeans whom neither she nor Mr Redwood has much time for: she has "very serious doubts about the currently fashionable idea of a separate 'defence identity' within the Alliance".

The trouble with accepting permanent "American leadership" (along with hugely expensive, probably fallible, high-technology security — particularly anti-missile defences against various "rogue states" in the Middle East) is that we would be trading-in just the sovereignty and liberties with which Mr Redwood and Lady Thatcher have sought to identify themselves.

US extraterritorial economic and military claims expand daily and the idea that we and our European neighbours might negotiate more equitably and effectively with the United States in support of our own interests if we subject ourselves to them militarily is dangerous fantasy.

One of Winston Churchill's perennial problems was to stay out from under the treads of the American juggernaut: we still have to.

Yours etc,
 ELIZABETH YOUNG,
 100 Bayswater Road, W2,
 April 1.

Casting light on the evolving eye

From Mr Aston Atkinson

Sir, Dr Richard Dawkins is quoted by Quentin Letts ("Faith, hope and the Darwin man", March 29; also letters, April 5) as suggesting that all living things owe their design not to God but to evolution. And he explains ("Can nature perform miracles?", April 2) how the eye could have evolved in less than half a million years.

What he failed to address was the question of how natural forces originated. How did photons of light come about, for example? He explains that photons played their part in the evolution of the eye in living creatures. Are we to assume that light acquired its wave-like nature by evolution of some kind?

There are untold numbers of other natural phenomena that beg explanation: the force of gravity, to single out just one. By what process could this mighty power which holds planets in their orbits have evolved, presumably from some primitive, earlier versions? The answer to these questions about the origins of natural forces — the engines of evolution, as it were — could be amazingly simple: for instance, that they were created by God.

Yours truly,
 ASTON ATKINSON,
 8 Scarlett Road,
 Casetown, Isle of Man,
 April 2.

Job flexibility

From Mr D. H. Braggins

Sir, The letter from the Chief Executive of the RSPB and others (April 5) draws attention to the implications for the countryside created by the crisis in the beef industry and calls for the need to develop agricultural policies that are sensitive to the environment. What it does not mention is the unique opportunity that this would present to improve our rivers.

The growth of the beef and dairy industries and the introduction of intensive farming methods have inevitably led to problems over the disposal of farm waste. Slurry-spreading and the use of pesticides and fertilisers near watercourses have introduced excessive nitrates and phosphates into the river systems to the detriment of plants, fish and animals. If there is to be a large cull of cattle it would be timely for the Ministry of Agriculture to finance the set-aside scheme for the re-creation of water-fringe habitats and buffer strips to reduce pollution of our rivers.

The scheme should be implemented in conjunction with the newly created Environment Agency and, in the first instance, should be targeted at the 25 rivers which English Nature is seeking to protect as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). These have been identified as examples of the best rivers for wildlife but are suffering from pollution and require remedial action.

Yours faithfully,
 DEREK BRAGGINS,
 Blue Bell,
 Payhembury, Nr Honiton, Devon,
 April 5.

Job flexibility

From the Director of the Employment Policy Institute

Sir, One might agree that greater labour-market flexibility has a role to play in combating European unemployment. But it is far from obvious that this "inescapable" means cuts in welfare protection, non-wage labour costs and job protection regulation ("Political jobbery", leading article, April 2).

With regard to regulation, for example, your conclusion rests on too narrow a definition of "flexibility". Although there may be advantages to increasing employers' ability to hire and fire, if pushed too far this kind of flexibility can detract from "task flexibility" — i.e. the ease with which workers can be switched from task to task.

Task flexibility depends upon the degree to which workers are skilled and adaptable. It is aided by encouraging stable long-term relationships between employers and workers which foster employee commitment

Job flexibility

and provide firms with a greater incentive to invest in training.

If policymakers promote hire-and-fire flexibility too far above task flexibility they may thus end up boosting low-paid, low-productivity jobs at the expense of failing to create a competitive, high-skill economy capable of generating better quality and more secure jobs.

"Security of employability" is the key buzz-phrase to have emerged from this week's G7 jobs summit in Lille. The focus of sensible debate should be whether this is better achieved by some form of regulation or instead through voluntary means. Either way, however, one should avoid the mistake of concluding that a crude hire-and-fire culture offers the best route to competitiveness and job-creation throughout the EU.

Yours faithfully,
 JOHN PHILPOTT, Director,
 Employment Policy Institute,
 Southbank House,
 Black Prince Road, SE1,
 April 2.

Norfolk's tribal chief

From the Earl of Sandwich

Sir, You rightly point out (leading article, April 8) that the election of Lynne Symonds as honorary chief of the Mamprusi tribe is an example of the value of personal contributions in overseas aid-giving. You could have added that such commitment also honours and inspires the Norfolk community who have supported her work as a teacher and fundraiser.

Awareness of needs overseas is an important, and still neglected, part of the aid-giving process. Aid agencies like Christian Aid and Oxfam are actively engaged in "development educa-

Norfolk's tribal chief

tion", with some support from the European Union, the Overseas Development Administration and a few of the more aware politicians.

Public support for overseas aid is much enhanced by individual initiatives like Lynne's, which are often the best means of giving schools and local communities a direct experience of problems abroad and of the possibility of solutions.

Yours sincerely,
 SANDWICH,
 (Development journalist,
 Christian Aid, 1974-86),
 Mapperton House,
 Beaminster, Dorset,
 April 9.

Ups and downs

From Professor R. M. Hardisty

Sir, Mr Vaughan-Davies's club porter (letter, April 5) was not being illogical in stating that "most gentlemen give more" than average; he merely wished to imply that those who gave less were not gentlemen.

Yours faithfully,
 R. M. HARDISTY,
 4 Ruskin Close, NW11,
 April 5.

In praise of comets

From Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, President of the Institute of Physics

Sir, Your correspondents write (April 2 and 5) "how boring comets are" and "give me shooting stars any day". Really, what a travesty of the truth.

The present comet, easily seen by everyone on cloudless nights, is a wonder to behold, and to appreciate. It arrived in our skies quite unexpectedly, having apparently been lost in the vicinity of the Sun in Stone Age times. It represents a sample of matter left over when the planets were formed and its study will help us to understand how the Earth came about.

Careful viewing of the comet will reveal its tail, pointing away from the

In praise of comets

Sun and the seat of all sorts of interesting physics and chemistry — a unique laboratory in space.

On a more sombre note, one day a comet will head directly for the Earth and that will certainly not be a boring event: "terminal" might be a better word to use. However, such an event is not likely for a few million years and even then it may be possible to deflect it; our successors will then live to view another day.

Yours sincerely,
 ARNOLD WOLFENDALE
 (Astronomer Royal, 1991-95),
 University of Durham,
 Department of Physics,
 Science Laboratories,
 South Road, Durham,
 April 5.

Ups and downs

From Mr Frank Nunneley

Sir, Speaking as an average man (and I have been on the Clapham omnibus) I thought it worth pointing out that I have more than the average number of legs.

Yours faithfully,
 FRANK NUNNELEY,
 Fairfield, Horseshoe Lane,
 Beckley, East Sussex,
 April 9.

Private passions

From Mr Gavin G. R. McEwan

Sir, If the views of Mr Sean Fear (letter, April 3; see also letter, April 8) are correct, then surely employers should not be permitted to discriminate against prospective employees only on grounds of sexual orientation? The logical extension of his argument is that they should also be allowed to discriminate on grounds of sex, age, race, religion and any other ground they choose.

Personally, I would refuse to employ anyone who had written a morally repugnant letter to the Editor of *The Times*, and would gladly discriminate against Mr Fear on that ground.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 GAVIN G. R. MCEWAN,
 18 Park Court, Dalmuir,
 Clydebank, Dunbartonshire,
 April 8.

All at sea

From Mr John Bagley

Sir, I realise that coastal erosion is a constant cause for concern in East Anglia. But I was alarmed to read the reference to "Stowmarket on the Suffolk coast" (Valerie Grove interview, April 5).

Perhaps there was an exceptionally high tide when Michael Palin met his wife-to-be there some 30 years ago.

Yours sincerely,
 JOHN BAGLEY,
 33 Hamilton Road,
 Cockfosters, Hertfordshire,
 April 5.

Easter parade

From Mr Laurence Davies

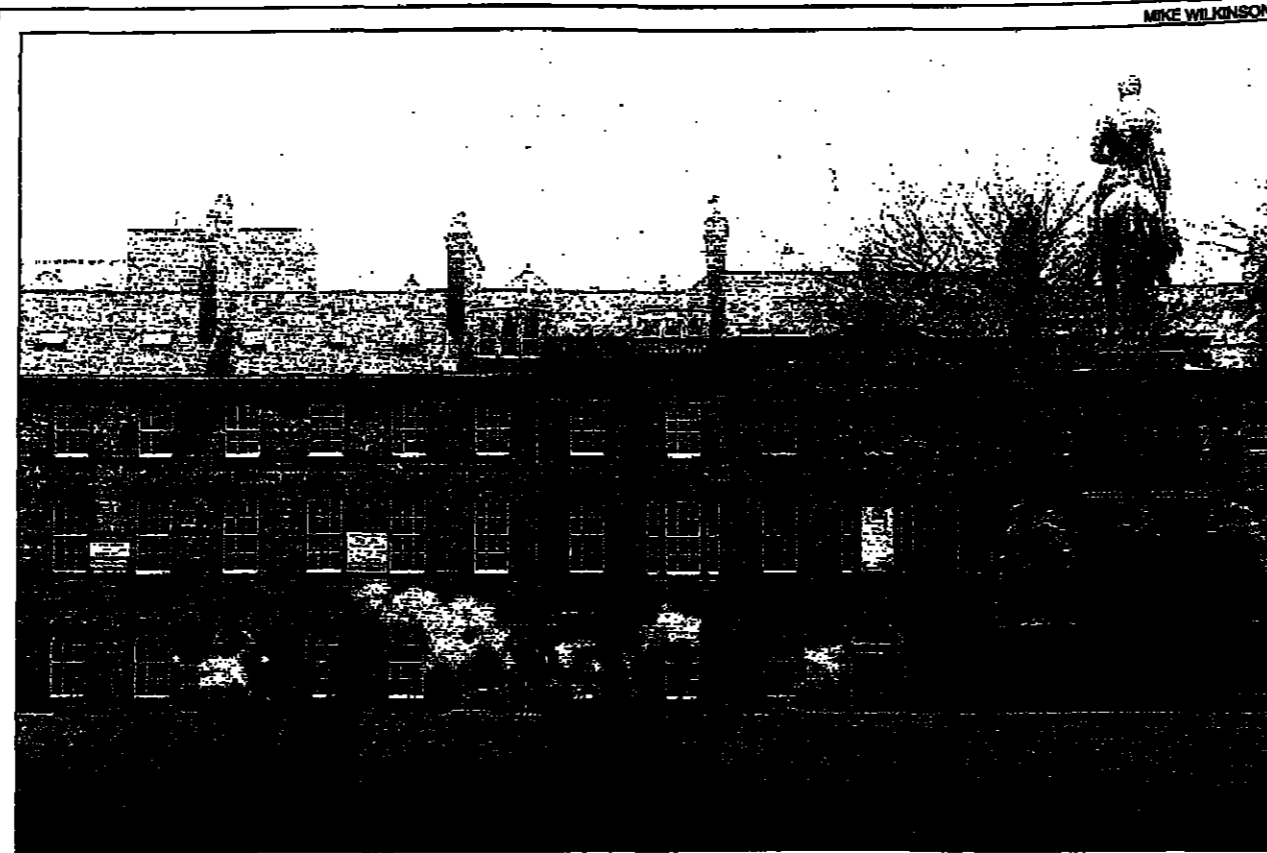
Sir, Barry Shooter (letter, April 10) expresses bafflement at the presence of street cleaners and traffic wardens on Easter Day. As both the London boroughs of Havering and Redbridge are controlled by a minority "new Labour" administration maybe we should ask Tony Blair about the sanctity of Christian holidays (leading article, April 8; letters, April 10)?

Yours faithfully,
 LAURENCE DAVIES,
 36 Wingate Road, Ilford, Essex,
 April 10.

THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE held a meeting at Buckingham Palace. KENSINGTON PALACE April 10: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire), received Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Denton-Smith (Colonel of the Regiment)...



The houses in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, that will be the new headquarters of the National Trust for Scotland

Trust spends £3.7m to save historic square

By JOHN YOUNG The National Trust for Scotland has taken the first steps towards the restoration of the world famous Charlotte Square in Edinburgh. With the aid of £3.7 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £700,000 from Historic Scotland it has purchased numbers 26-31 which will become its headquarters...

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will attend a piano recital at the Festival Hall at 7.20 in aid of The Voices Foundation. The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board, will visit Ailsa Craig Lighthouse, Campbeltown, Kintyre at 2.00. Princess Alexandra will visit the Floyd Unit, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, at 2.05...

Simon Dyer CBE

A Memorial Requiem Mass for Simon Dyer CBE, Director General of the AA, will be celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, at The Brompton Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7, on Monday, May 13 at 11.30am.

Geoffrey Foxcroft

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Geoffrey Foxcroft will be held in Rugby School Chapel on Saturday, April 20, at 2.15pm.

Appointment

Mr Robert Franklin Nelson, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Memorial service

Mr Michael J. Naylor A memorial service for Mr Michael J. Naylor, Founder and Managing Director of Endsleigh Insurance Services, was held yesterday in Tewkesbury Abbey. The Rev Michael Taylor officiated and with Mr Michael Alcock, Managing Director of Endsleigh, welcomed the congregation.

Latest wills

Betty Puddifoot, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £506,994 net. She left £125,000 and her home and contents to personal legatee, £50,000 each to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (TEMPUS PHARE) to support a research project entitled 'Inter-university foreign language training network'...

University news

Group (includes Developmental Biology Research Centre) Dr K T O'Byrne, Dr S R Milligan (Physiology Group), Dr C W Coen, £164,256 (MRC) to support a research project entitled 'Environmental factors and the control of gene expression in the nematode C. elegans'...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.W.J. Corrie and Miss E.J. Bulloagh The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Dr and Mrs William Currie, of Mountside, New Jersey, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Professor Donald Bulloagh, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Mrs Belinda Bulloagh, of Waddington, Oxford.

Marriages

Mr B.C.F. Nicholson and Miss K. Sakamoto The marriage took place in Kyoto, Japan, on Saturday, April 6, 1996, between Mr B.C.F. Nicholson, son of Mr T.R. Nicholson, of London, and Miss K. Sakamoto, daughter of Mrs S. Sakamoto, of Osaka, Japan. This will be followed by a service of blessing in Bristol in June.

Church news

Appointments Canon Murray Banting, Vicar, St Cuthbert, Capton (Portsmouth); is to be Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, same diocese. The Rev Roderick Allon-Smith, Vicar, St John-the-Baptist, Westwood, and Area Dean of Coventry South (Coventry); to be Parish Development Adviser in the diocese of Coventry and Priest-in-charge, Radford, Senece and Upton, same diocese.

PERSONAL

But I shall watch for the Lord. I shall wait for God's salvation. Micah 7: 7 (G23) BIRTHS ADENY - On March 21st 1996, to Ben and Sara one daughter, Hannah Louise.

DEATHS

ADAMS - Donald on April 8th aged 67 years, suddenly at home. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth. ADAMS - Donald on April 8th aged 67 years, suddenly at home. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

BIRTHS

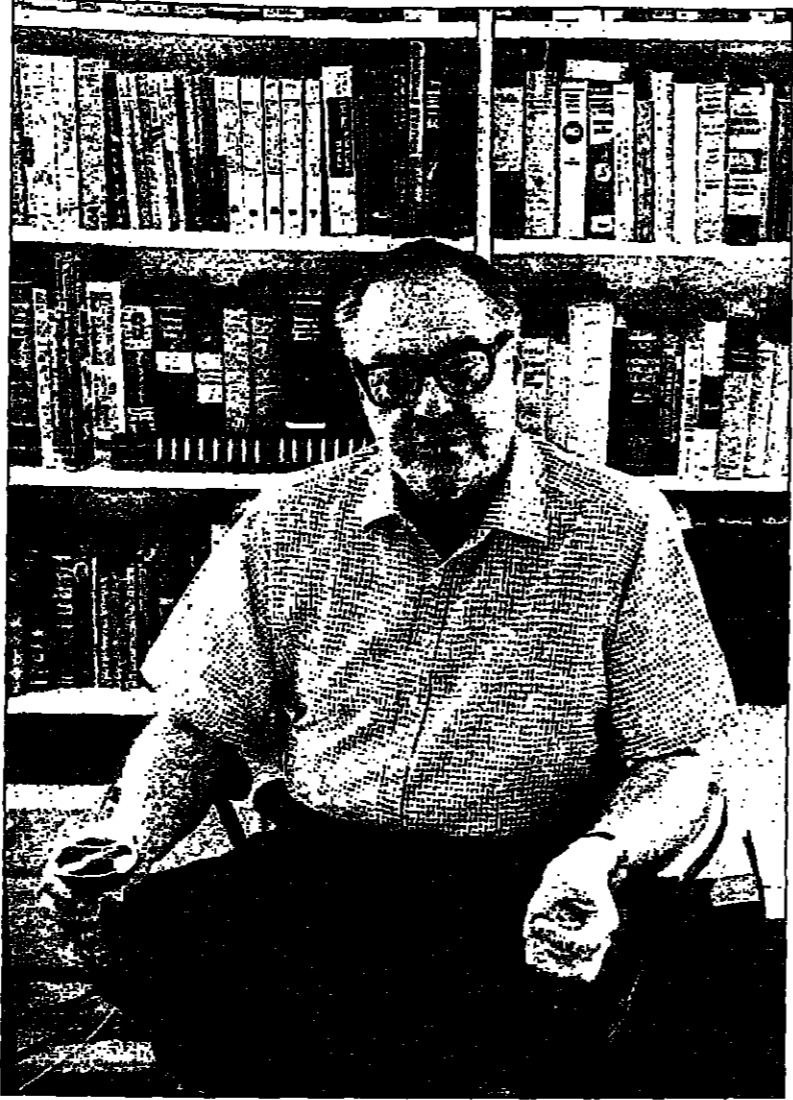
MACHESON - On April 8th, to Jane (nee Parry) and Campbell, a daughter, Emily Catherine. PINE - On March 26th, to Catherine (nee Molyneux) and Alan (nee Molyneux), a daughter, Freagie Guy and a girl, Tara Alexandra Molyneux.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE We have a large stock of tickets for sale. All tickets are subject to strict resale and transfer rules. TICKETS (Bought & Sold) Phantom, Oliver, Selma, Onis, 3 Tenors, Eagle, T. Turner, B. Springsteen, N. Brown, B. Jovi, Any Ticket obtained. 0171 488-4414

OBITUARIES

RICHARD CONDON



Richard Condon, American thriller writer, died in a Dallas hospital on April 9 aged 81. He was born in New York on January 14, 1915.

ALTHOUGH Richard Condon did not embark on a career as a writer until he was well into his forties, he established himself as a master of the thriller genre with only his second novel *The Manchurian Candidate*, published in 1959. Within a very few years of its appearance it was to gain added lustre for the uncanny sense of prescience it acquired from the terrible passage of events in the United States. Simply, its plot — a brainwashed zombie is programmed to kill a liberal politician — appeared to prefigure the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas in November 1963.

Indeed, so disturbing did this apparent foreknowledge seem, and such raw nerves did it touch in some quarters, that Frank Sinatra, who played a major role in the acclaimed 1962 film version of the book (Laurence Harvey was the pre-programmed assassin), exerted himself as a friend of the Kennedys to block the film's release. In America for some years thereafter it was difficult to find a copy on video and it did not re-emerge in the cinemas until 1987.

None of this did Condon any harm as a writer. For his admirers it imbued him with a sense of mysterious powers. He began to acquire a cult reputation. The only potential danger to his composure and common sense was that reviewers, not content with seeing him simply as a very good thriller-writer who did his research thoroughly and got his facts right, were increasingly inclined to detect in him a "polysyllabic, polymathic satirist" in whose novels were to be found "an amalgam of fantasy and pantheism". It was not long before comparisons with Kafka and Kerouac were being enlisted in the literary debate about Condon's qualities.

Fortunately, both the author and his readers kept their heads under their bombardment. "I'm here to entertain," said Condon and he went on to do so in other familiar titles such as *Winter Kills* (1974), *Death of a Politician* (1979) and *Prizzi's Honor* (1982).

Like those of many contemporary thriller writers, the outer life of Richard Thomas Condon was an uneventful enough affair — and he never pretended it was anything else. Although he had "done time" in Hollywood before becoming a writer, he had never inhabited any of the corridors of power or labyrinths of Mafia intrigue about which he wrote so convincingly. The authenticity was in the research, of which he was a master.

Born in New York, he attended one of its high schools, graduating anonymously "in a class of 4,000," as he later liked to say. After leaving school he joined the US mercantile marine and

spent the next few years travelling the oceans of the world as a steward in a ship of the Dollar Line. When he returned to shore he joined an advertising agency. There he had his first creative task as a writer of slogans for the packaging of toothpaste tubes or bottles of mouthwash. This involved composing exhortations to the would-be buyer to be aware of plaque or halitosis — or both. "I did not like the advertising business," he was later to sum up this phase of his life.

Nevertheless Condon had done well enough to catch the eye of Walt Disney Productions who made him their publicity director for the eastern United States. Later, he was drawn to Hollywood and found himself doing publicity work for many of the big producers of the day: Samuel Goldwyn, Cecil B. de Mille and Darryl Zanuck. He did not much like this, either. It was stressful, gave him ulcers, yet did nothing for the creative side of his nature which was still lurking, waiting to get out. But he stuck it for nearly twenty years. Finally, while he was recuperating from his third duodenal ulcer, his wife

suggested to him that he do something else.

In fact, he had, like many such wage slaves who live tantalisingly close to creativity without being able fully to assume the mantle themselves, been scribbling desultorily for the previous few years. He had written the lyrics for some children's record albums and in 1953 achieved some sort of breakthrough with a play, *Men of Distinction*, which had the grand total of four performances in New York in 1953. Nothing deterred, he resigned his job as a vice-president of RKO Radio Pictures (not very far ahead of the grim march of economic reality; RKO ceased production soon afterwards) and devoted himself single-mindedly to writing.

His first novel, *The Oldest Confession*, came out in 1958. Its story was that of a young man who, sickened by the acceptance of corruption in the business world, decides to earn an "honest" living as an art thief. Americans, still perhaps momentarily uncertain of the probity of its institutions in the wake of the McCarthy exposure, liked it, and Condon's latter-day Robin

Hood won him considerable critical acclaim.

This reputation was sealed by *The Manchurian Candidate* and its success as both book and film emancipated Condon from further drudgery. Yet the rest of his writing life remained one of exemplary hard work. There can have been few more disciplined writers than he was. Amid a vast library of press cuttings, old newspapers, magazines, letters, cartoons, travel guides, maps and government papers, he employed all the electronic aids which were available to him from the 1960s onwards. He was using calculators, VDUs and floppy disks as aids to plotting when many similarly technically-minded authors were still drawing lines on graph paper with coloured pencils.

Condon's newly-found wealth enabled him to travel widely and he had, successively, homes in Paris, Madrid, Mexico City and Geneva, as well as one in the countryside of Co Kilkenny in Ireland. Before returning to the US in 1980, he now produced a steady flow of novels, several of which were made into films. Among these was *Winter Kills* (1974) a reworking of the presidential assassination story, which was translated to the screen in 1979. Although it was admired as a novel, it failed to make much impact as a film, in spite of a cast which included Jeff Bridges, John Huston, Anthony Perkins and Elizabeth Taylor.

Prizzi's Honor, a Mafia comedy, was made into a film in 1985 with Condon and Janet Roach as screenwriters and starring Jack Nicholson and Kathleen Turner. John Huston directed. Notwithstanding such talents before and behind the camera (and although Huston's daughter Anjelica won an Oscar for best supporting actress), the film tended to puzzle as much as to please. Perhaps a flummoxed audience brought up on the lush simplicities — adulteries, betrayals and bloodlettings — of the Francis Ford Coppola film versions of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* could make little of its sour black comedy. Nevertheless Condon followed it with a number of sequels involving the Prizzi family, which were all well received, although, even for his most devoted fans, none really seemed to capture the subtlety and felicity of touch which had characterised *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Besides novel writing Condon was an enthusiast for wine and food — and one of considerable knowledge at that. As a "spare time" relaxation he liked writing about these subjects for magazines, and he was a chevalier of the *Confrérie du Tasting* and a member of the *Commanderie du Bonpays* as well as being a chevalier of the *Chaine des Rôtisseurs*.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, whom he married in 1938, and by two daughters, with one of whom he had written a cookbook.

JO PRIVAT



Jo Privat, accordionist, died on April 3 aged 76. He was born on April 15, 1919.

JO PRIVAT was a true son of an East End of Paris that has disappeared in part architecturally and almost entirely in spirit. He was born in the heart of the working class district, set on the hillside of Montmartre, famous also as the place where Maurice Chevalier and Edith Piaf grew up. It was a *quartier* of artisans and street singers, dance halls and small bars where people played cards and swilled down their saucisson with copious red wine. Dancing at the local *bal musette* — the word *musette* came from the bag containing tools, loaf and wine, that workers carried earlier in this century — was a normal pastime for people of all ages. Playing at these dances, Privat helped to make the sound of the accordion a quintessential part of this bygone Paris.

He was given his first accordion at the age of seven by his aunt who ran what was known as a *maison de tolérance* — more bluntly a brothel — in the rundown Marais district near by. As his fame grew, he became a travelling star across France and, later, the Far East. But he lived and played virtually the whole of his life in the eastern part of the city where he headed the bill for more than fifty years at the famous Balajo dance hall in the Rue de la Lappe.

This still stands, a stone's throw from the new Opera House at the Bastille, in an area now crowded with designer clothes shops, smart restaurants and multiplex cinemas. But before the Second World War it was very different. By day, the narrow streets were bustling with tradesmen shouting in *argot*. By night they swarmed with petty criminals, pimps, street girls and apprehensive bourgeois seeking filliation.

Privat played on the stage of the small, dark Balajo dance hall, with guitarists as backup. There were no brass instruments and the dance was usually a lively fast waltz — men clasping their partners firmly by the hips — or the French *jeu*. Privat with his smooth style, the opposite of the sharper rhythm of Yvette Horner, his female rival, became known as *le roi Parisien du piano à bretelles* — piano

with braces being the popular description of the accordion.

An early influence was the gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, who, at the time, was playing at the main Paris flea market at the Porte de Clignancourt. Reinhardt had invented a new, lighter sound than that of the banjo. Privat followed his example, discarding the staccato style of the older musette accordionists, veering to *legato* and mixing Italian melodies, sounds from Eastern Europe and a touch of jazz.

Another star of the epoch, Verchuren, continued to be accompanied by saxophones and trumpets and used polkas and marches for his inspiration, but Privat with his more tender nuances won the public's favour. Not that he ever forgot the tempo for he was known as someone to whom one could dance all night.

He first played at the Balajo in 1936 after winning the international accordion competition at the Moulin de la Galette cabaret in Montmartre, one-time haunt of Van Gogh and Toulouse Lautrec. He wrote his biggest hit *Balajo* in 1939 while he was a soldier, awaiting the Second World War.

Dozens of hit records followed in the 1940s and 1950s, notably *Nuit Blanche*, *Cauchemar*, *Papillons Noirs*, *Anniversaire* and *Mystérieuse*. In all, his repertoire contained some 500 tunes.

Privat, a big colourful man,

was known for his generosity towards other musicians, particularly those of gypsy origin — he was known himself as "the white gypsy". He was admired both as a technical virtuoso and as a player who could launch into flights of jazz or turn to dream folk melodies studded with dramatic pauses.

Even the then President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing tried to imitate him, taking his accordion on TV in an unsuccessful effort to improve his haughty image before his defeat by François Mitterrand in 1981.

In the 1980s, musical tastes changed dramatically and the Balajo management downgraded the accordion in favour of disco music. Privat, by then a national institution, toured increasingly without ever losing his very east Paris way of talking, incomprehensible to the young dancing at the Balajo today. Privat returned often to the Rue de Lappe where he frequented the few old-style bistros left in an area once dominated by auvergnats. He played his last concert at the dance hall in 1989 to celebrate the bicentenary of the French Revolution.

In recent years Privat launched a new career in Asia becoming a star in Japan, where his *Balajo* melody was played on television and radio and where he gave concerts to packed houses.

Jo Privat is survived by a son.

PROFESSOR PETER NAILOR



Peter Nailor, Provost of Gresham College, former civil servant and university professor, died on April 5 aged 67. He was born on December 16, 1928.

PETER NAILOR enjoyed a varied career, spent partly in the academic world and partly in public service. The fact that he slotted into no easy category probably had something to do with what, in a predominantly managerial society, some may have seen as a failure to fulfil his potential.

Peter Nailor was the only son of Leslie Nailor and his wife Lily Matilda (née Jones). Coming from no grand family background, he was educated

at the Mercers' School — then on the site of Bernard's Inn in Holborn — and subsequently at Wadhams College, Oxford, where he read Modern History, taking a first in 1952. He joined the Admiralty as an assistant principal that same year. He quickly made his mark. He did well as private secretary to Sir John Lang, then Secretary to the Admiralty and one of Whitehall's most outstanding characters who combined being both kind and demanding.

He spent the years from 1962 to 1967 as a member of the Polaris Executive, which was set up following the Nassau Agreement between President Kennedy and Harold Macmillan of December

1962. This was a long spell for any civil servant in one post but it was regarded as necessary if the Polaris project was to be brought to fruition in terms of both time and contained cost. The executive was a small, self-contained group tucked away in a corner of the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. Nailor played a major role in helping to mastermind the finance and administrative side of the project. This involved a number of new ideas in terms of management and control, including working closely with the United States.

It may be that this distinctly long stint, despite its advantages, took him somewhat out of sight of the mainstream and influenced both him and his

future in Whitehall (although, to be fair, he was never career-minded) while at the same time encouraging his interests in activities elsewhere.

As things worked out, he went on to become head of a new division in the Defence Secretariat, within the Ministry of Defence, which had been set up to think ahead; to produce realistic scenarios, cutting across service boundaries, or inter-service requirements, could be tested. This division became increasingly involved in what is now known as the Arms Control field, including its nuclear aspects. Nailor worked closely, and comfortably, with the Defence Planning Staff and

the Defence Operations Analysis Executive at Byfleet. This was a job he relished. It was innovative. It was intellectually demanding. It gave him opportunities to meet a much wider range of people both inside and outside Whitehall.

In the second half of the 1960s the Ministry of Defence was seeking to establish a dialogue, particularly over defence policy and issues, with the academic world, including the idea of secondments in both directions. It was in this encouraging atmosphere that Nailor went to become Professor of Strategic Studies in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the newly-founded University of Lancaster. His initial thinking was that he would spend three years there and then return to the Ministry of Defence but, in the event, he stayed happily at Lancaster from 1969 to 1977 and was Head of Department from 1974 to 1977.

He took to academic life enthusiastically. He enjoyed teaching and lecturing, and books and published work in journals and in publications of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He developed links with a number of overseas universities and was a member of the political science committee of the then Social Science Research Council.

For most of his years at Lancaster he was vice-princi-

pal of Lonsdale College with a large flat on the top floor. His home was a *salon* for colleagues and students alike. He created a relaxed, informal environment in which he flourished. His students will recall how much his very personal style added to the pleasures of university life. He encouraged young colleagues in both their teaching and research activities and in spreading their wings outside the university world. As Head of Department, he brought forward positive and practical ideas of financial management, which worked.

To his colleagues and students he was seen as a kind, thoughtful and gentle man but one who would fight hard for something in which he believed. Privately he would often help students with financial problems.

He enjoyed his work and had fun at Lancaster. He was a successful senior academic. He could be firm and on occasions could be difficult, though never harbouring a grudge. He was charming with a gaiety that was infectious. He never took either the world — or himself — too seriously.

In 1977 the Royal Naval College at Greenwich caused him to change tack once again. Throughout his life he had a love affair with the Royal Navy and his appointment as Professor of History and International Affairs at Greenwich was like returning home. He enjoyed his new responsibilities. He had a sure touch. Yet he was not a consensus man. He liked people and was a sympathetic listener but there is no doubt that he was in command of his staff.

He was enthusiastic about the increase in the academic content of the Royal Naval Staff Course at Greenwich. His lectures and tutorials were enlivened by wit and a foreknowledge of potential political mishaps. He delighted in offering hospitality in the Painted Hall. His verbal invitations usually included the injunction: "Dress up for the surroundings; dress down for the food."

It was fitting that, on his retirement, he gave the 1988

Trafalgar Night Address and proposed the toast to Nelson's Immortal Memory, at his last mess dinner in the Painted Hall.

His last post was as part-time Provost of Gresham College. He found it most congenial, not least because it was a return to Bernard's Inn where he had been a boy at school. He worked well with the governing body — mostly members of the City Corporation and of the Mercers' Company — and made a major contribution to the renaissance of the college by widening its attraction and broadening its appeal. He was making plans for the college's quarter-centenary celebrations the week before he died.

Peter Nailor was an unusual man in many ways. He did not find it easy to determine his real métier in life; hence the diversity of his activities.

He was always part-academic and part-public servant. He was full both of intellectual curiosity and a yearning for practicality. He wanted life to be interesting. He always wanted the opportunity to make full use of his outstanding verbal facility with words. He liked diversity both in his own right and for the new opportunities it gave him to use his wit, which he did with abundance throughout his life. He never married.

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Third World lures tourists

By STEVE KEENAN

THE WORLD'S developing countries are taking a bigger slice of the tourism cake—and the biggest loser is Western Europe.

Over the past 20 years, Europe has lost nearly a 10 per cent share of tourist arrivals. The Americas also saw their share shrink by nearly 3 per cent.

But all other areas of the world have seen their market grow — Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia/Pacific, according to a comprehensive new report from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO).

The biggest growth has been to East Asia and the Pacific, which has more than trebled its share of international tourists (to 14.7 per cent) and revenue (18.7) over the past two decades.

The region has consistently been the strongest growth area of the past decade, overtaken for the first time last year by the Middle East and South Asia.

The surge in tourism to developing countries has seen destinations including China, Hong Kong and Singapore leap up the table of the world's 20 tourism hotspots.

The growth is mirrored in figures to Eastern Europe, where Poland has seen arrivals grow six-fold in five years and the Czech Republic has doubled its figures.

China now ranks fifth with 23.4 million arrivals last year, up from 10.5 million just five years ago. The trend is set to continue, with the UK alone seeing growth of 30 per cent in bookings for long-haul travel this year.

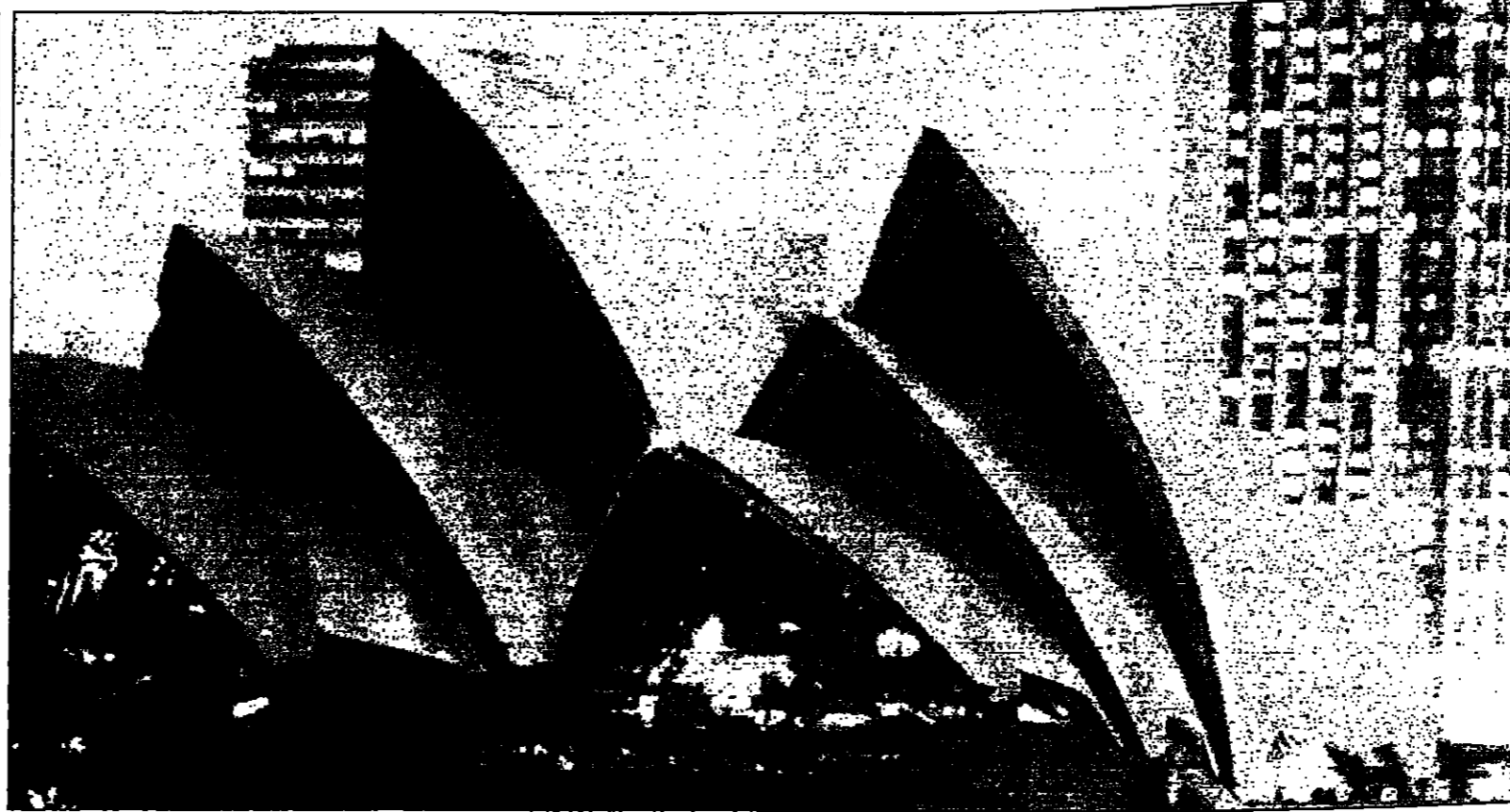
The WTO figures show that Europe accounted for three in five (59.5 per cent) of all international tourist arrivals last year. The United Kingdom showed the biggest rise, with figures up 7.9 per cent to 22.7 million visitors.

But Europe's share of both arrivals and revenue has shrunk since 1975, when more than two-thirds (69.2 per cent) of tourists visited this continent.

"The past five years have witnessed a gradual diversification of tourist markets with the emergence of new destinations such as Hong Kong and Singapore," the report says.

"The same phenomenon is observed in Central and Eastern Europe, where countries such as Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic have all chalked up sizeable gains in the world ranking."

The Middle East was the fastest growing region last year, largely due to the recovery in tourism to Egypt, up 95 per cent. South Asia reported the second biggest growth, spurred by a 20 per cent leap in visitors to India and 10 per cent growth to the Maldives.



The new Government's raising of the cap on visas will give more young British backpackers the opportunity to see Sydney Opera House this year

Australia increases visas

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THOUSANDS of young people whose hopes of spending a working holiday in Australia had been dashed will now be able to travel Down Under. It is all due to the change of government in Australia.

The former Labor Government had imposed a worldwide cap on the number of holiday visas which would be issued in the year to July. This was an effort by Canberra to help to cut the 9 per cent unemployment rate in Australia. Half of the 33,000 visas were allocated to young Britons to enable them to work on backpacking trips around the country.

However, the allocation was used up far more quickly than expected and a complete ban on all visa applications was ordered until the end of June. The new conservative coalition Government has now

reverted after pressure from Australia's farmers who said that British youngsters were the best temporary workers in the world. An investigation by government officials also revealed that "young working holidaymakers have a positive effect on the economy through their aggregate demand for food and services".

The number of "working" visas available for Britons has now officially been raised from 16,500 a year to 21,000 and from 33,000 to 42,000 worldwide.

Philip Ruddock, the new Immigration Minister, said that the programme was particularly welcomed by the tourism, horticultural, rural and other industries which relied on casual labour at peak times.

"I have listened to their concerns and believe that Australia has more to gain than to lose from raising the cap on the programme imposed by the previous government," he said.

Working holidays in Australia have grown in popularity over recent years since the introduction of cheap charter flights costing as little as £399 return.

A working holiday visa is available to young people between the ages of 18 and 25 and is valid for 12 months.

Last year, a record 350,000 Britons went to Australia purely as tourists.

WORLD'S TOP TOURISM EARNERS

Country	Revenue (US \$ million)	Market share (Per cent)
United States	\$43,007	15.70
France	\$20,185	7.28
Italy	\$20,016	7.28
Spain	\$18,383	6.74
United Kingdom	\$14,940	5.47
Austria	\$11,471	4.22
Germany	\$5,032	1.85
Hong Kong	\$2,211	0.81
China	\$4,596	1.69
Singapore	\$6,789	2.48
Switzerland	\$5,612	2.05
Poland	\$4,088	1.50
Canada	\$4,326	1.58
Australia	\$4,326	1.58
Thailand	\$4,326	1.58

AMERICAN transport officials this week finally signed the paperwork enabling Sir Freddie Laker officially to begin transatlantic services as a US registered airline. Harvey Elliott and David Churchill write.

The launch of his new service between Manchester and Florida had been delayed while Federal Aviation Administration and transport department officials studied the details of his new venture. Sir Freddie was forced to start the service with jets borrowed

Laker cleared for take-off

from 1.2 million last year. The strength of interest in Florida is shown by the increase in requests for the free video Disney and Unijet are offering to holidaymakers. Last year some 300,000 were dispatched, but Disney says more than three times as many have been requested so far this year.

But with airline capacity to Florida up by 30 per cent or more this summer, industry sources fear that operators will be forced to cut back or discount heavily to sell seats.

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Why tour operators love the North West

Elegant Resorts, one of Britain's most up-market tour operators, is to produce a brochure aimed at holidaymakers living in the North West.

The company was set up in 1988 in Chester, but its main target audience until now has been in the South East. However, a raft of statistical and anecdotal evidence has indicated that the economic balance and, more importantly, the area in which people are prepared to spend to enjoy themselves, is shifting north.

Elegant Resorts provides only long-haul holidays to some of the finest hotels in the

world, using scheduled airlines and charging up to £40,000 for a holiday in exotic spots such as Mauritius or the Seychelles.

An increasing number of people from the North West can afford the price. Last year at least 20 per cent of its clients came from the area and this year the figure is expected to grow to about 35 per cent.

Liz Jeffries, of the Greater Manchester Visitors and Convention Bureau, says: "You have only to walk around the city to see how prosperous we have become. Armani and Vivienne Westwood have both opened branches in Manches-



The Travel Business HARVEY ELLIOTT

ter and Versace is shortly coming to town. A recent survey showed that south Manchester and north Cheshire have more millionaires per head of the population than anywhere else in the country."

Lynn Poly, the mass-market travel agency, has opened a branch in the centre of Manchester to deal with the de-

mand for exotic holidays. Last week the Lord Mayor opened its "worldwide lounge", specialising in long-haul travel, with 22 full-time staff.

Beverley Longden, the manager, said: "Our customers certainly have a taste for the exotic. The most popular long-haul destinations from Manchester are Florida, the Far East, the Caribbean and Australia."

Those who stay at home also have an increasing taste for the good life. The Chester Grosvenor hotel, for example, has been chosen as this year's host for the Murrum Champagne gastronomy dinner —

the first time the prestige culinary event has been held outside London.

The key to all inbound and outbound travel to the region, however, is Manchester airport. Last month, in a survey of 45,000 international airline passengers by the International Air Transport Association, it was voted the best airport in the world.

It was the first time Manchester had appeared in the list of the top 43 airports surveyed in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia.

But this year Manchester, which is local authority-owned

and is in the middle of a £500 million capital investment programme, beat Singapore Changi into second place and Amsterdam into third. Gatwick was ranked twelfth and Heathrow twenty-sixth.

Air Mauritius has now introduced twice-weekly flights from Manchester to the Royal Palm hotel on the Indian Ocean island, with packages costing £1,499 for five nights. Seats are booked for months ahead.

Forget the image of near-poverty so often used to portray the North West. It is now the economic powerhouse of Britain.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

- SEVEN and 14-night South-eastern Caribbean Cruises** from £799 per person are on offer from Seawind Cruise Line. Sailing out of Barbados on April 18, 25, May 2 and 9, the cruise takes in St Lucia, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Martinique, Aruba and Curaçao. Prices include return flights from London to Barbados. Details: 0171-723 6773.
- RETURN flights** to Toulouse or Bordeaux are on offer for £99 per person from Air Liberté from April 15 to May 15. Flights run twice daily out of Gatwick from Monday to Fridays and on Sundays. Details: 0345 228999.
- SAS Scandinavian Airlines** has return flights from Newcastle to Copenhagen for £103 per person, on dates between April 30 and June 30. Flights run twice daily Monday to Saturday and once on Sundays. Details: 0345 010789.
- LEARN to sail** at the ITT Sheraton Hotel with as many rounds as you can fit in on the hotel's private 18-hole course, is on offer for £145 per person at the Cambridge Moat House. The hotel has a putting green and resident golf professional. Details: 01954 249988.
- FRIENDLY Hotels** also has a golfing package available at its Quality Station Hotel in either Ayr or Perth, Scotland, for £59 per person per night. The price includes accommodation, breakfast and dinner, and a round of golf at a local course. Details: 01292 263268 (Ayr) or 01738 624141 (Perth).
- THE Briggen's House Hotel** near Ware in Hertfordshire is planning a series of murder-mystery weekends starting on June 14. The price is £99 per couple for overnight half-board accommodation plus the murder scenario. Details: 01279 829955.
- MANY discounted flights** with Swissair to destinations in the Far East are available through Travel Warehouse before May 31. Typical fares include Hong Kong £492; Singapore £450; Bangkok £439; Peking £475; Osaka £619. Details: 0171-414 8808.
- LUFTHANSA** is offering a cut-price £369 day-return business-class fare between Manchester, Frankfurt and Munich. The normal fare would cost as much as £536. Details: 0345 737 747.
- ATTRACTIVE discounted fares** flying Alitalia via Rome are on offer from Lupus Travel. Examples include Dubai £365; Nairobi £368; Rio de Janeiro £450. Details: 0171-306 3000.

Winter in Africa for £439

BY STEVE KEENAN

EXOTIC holidays and cruising are expected to show the greatest growth in bookings from the winter 1996-97 brochures out today from Britain's two biggest tour operators.

Thomson and Airtours, which between them sell half of all overseas holidays, have targeted couples willing to travel further for winter sunshine and adventure.

The demand for long-haul holidays is one bright spot of this spring, with sales running 30 per cent up in a market that is 20 per cent down overall.

But the long-haul market in winter has also trebled, to 500,000 people, in the past six years, according to Thomson.

"Long-haul is enjoying a particularly good run at the moment. All the growth this winter was in that market, and it wouldn't surprise me if it is the same next year," said Colin Mitchell, Thomson's planning director.

Thomson is running a charter series to the Pacific resort of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico for the first time, and expects Sri Lanka to return to favour. Its lead-in price to Mombasa is £439 for two weeks.

Airtours has also produced a long-haul brochure for the first time, and introduces Bali

and the Maldives — the latter starting at £449 for a week.

The company believes 80 per cent of customers from the brochure will be couples, the retired and young "empty nesters" looking for quality and value.

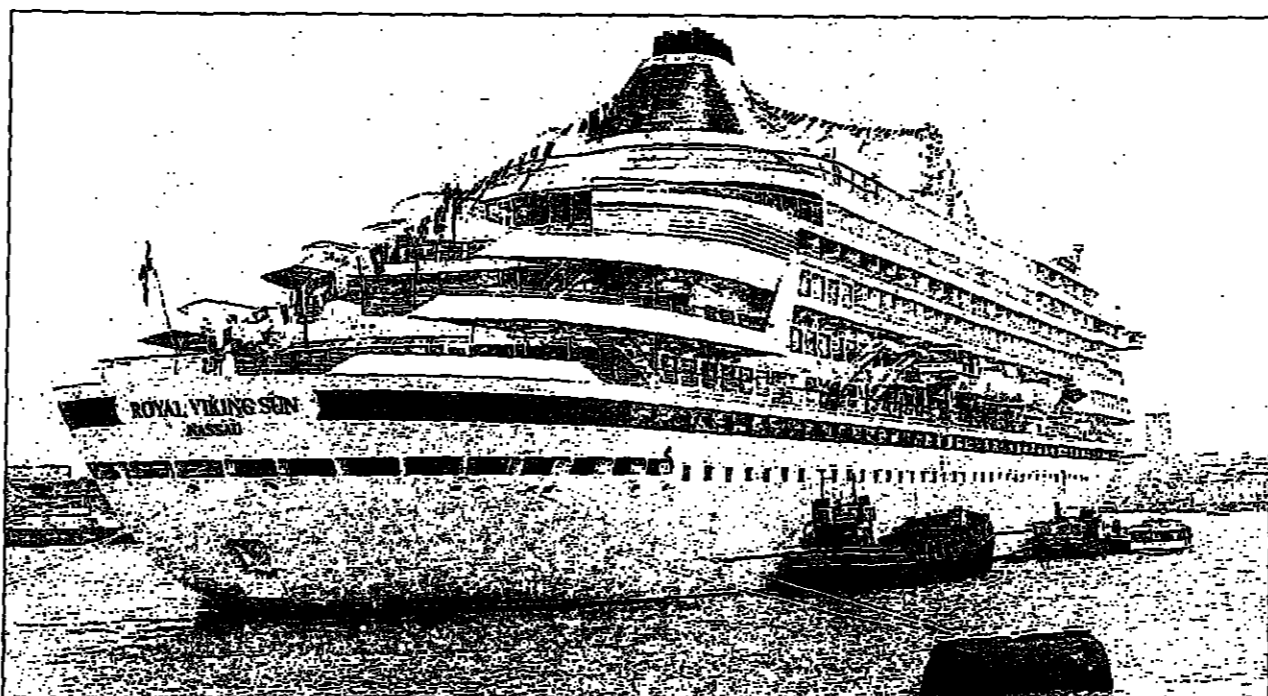
Both companies have also targeted cruising as the other growth area. "Cruising is becoming more popular by the day," said Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director. "More than 350,000 Britons sail around the Mediterranean and Caribbean and the figure is set to double by the year 2000."

New ports of call for Airtours are Istanbul and the Caribbean islands of Margarita, Curaçao and Aruba. Prices start at £499 for a week.

Around 2.6 million people took an overseas holiday this winter, with beach holidays in Spain accounting for nearly half the market, according to the travel agents Lunn Poly.

Thomson expects to provide one million free cups of tea and biscuits this winter, to run 2,000 bingo games and will have ballroom dancing in 37 hotels in eight resorts.

The favourable exchange rate also saw a renaissance in demand for Florida (up 10 per cent), followed by France, Portugal and Cyprus. Long-haul accounts for 20 per cent of the market.



Royal Viking Sun docks in Egypt after striking a reef. Cunard claims the publicity has actually increased bookings

Accident boosts bookings

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

AS CUNARD's new Norwegian owners this week puzzled what to do with their trouble-prone acquisition, potential passengers ignored the recent spate of bad publicity and flocked to book a cruise on the Royal Viking Sun, Cunard's luxury liner which last week hit a reef off Egypt.

"It has been an exact repeat of the pattern which followed the problems we had with the QE2 last year," said Eric Flounders, the Cunard spokesman. "Far from cancelling their cruise bookings in the wake of the incident, they now know more about the Royal Viking Sun. They have heard that it is rated in the Berlitz Guide as the number one cruise ship in the world and has been for years."

"Last year, bookings for the QE2 in January and February were well up on the previous year's levels because people learnt that the ship had undergone a massive refit. Now that the Royal Viking Sun has hit the headlines, they know far more about a ship which was largely unknown in the British market. It just shows that there is no such thing as bad publicity."

Whether this will convince the directors of Kvaerner — the Oslo-based engineering company who took over Cunard's parent company, Trafalgar House, less than 24 hours before the Royal Viking Sun struck the reef — to keep the ship and the six others in the fleet is doubtful.



P&O's Gwyn Hughes: cruising boom

Officially, they insist that retaining the ship remains a possibility, but most experts believe that they will dispose of it at least some, if not all of them. Kvaerner's takeover of Trafalgar House does not become "absolute" until next Thursday, when the European Commission has finally approved the deal, but already decisions are being made about the future of one of Britain's most prestigious and best-known maritime names.

"The directors support our attempt to reorganise and develop the luxury end of the market and to bring Cunard back to profitability," said a spokesman for Trafalgar House. "That could take two years and then we will review the options. These could include a merger with

another company, a joint marketing agreement, sale or further investment."

One option being considered is to retain the four most luxurious ships — QE2, Royal Viking Sun and two ocean-going yachts both named *Sea Goddess* — and sell the remaining three. Few problems are expected in disposing of these three ships because of the continuing boom in cruising. Last year, many companies reported an increase of up to 80 per cent in bookings and so far this year the trend has continued.

"We still have a little space but bookings are extremely good at the moment," said Gwyn Hughes, managing director of Cunard's rival P&O, whose flagship, the *Oriana*, is now a year old. The ship has had the propellers replaced to prevent vibrations at full speed. In the first year of operations it carried 35,000 passengers more than 124,000 miles and visited 89 ports.

In the meantime, the *Royal Viking Sun* is to be towed to a dry dock for repairs and, it is hoped, it will be back in service by the beginning of June.

All 560 passengers on board have been offered a 14-night cruise on other ships in the fleet. If they accept — and most are expected to do so — they will join hundreds of others still to take up their compensatory trips offered after the fire on board the *MV Sagaford* and as a result of the *QE2* cruise which began before a major refit could be completed.

I've jeans, fly me

PASSENGERS travelling with a new airline that is about to start services from Britain will be served by cabin staff wearing jeans, leather flying-jackets and trainers, Roger Bray writes.

Denim Air is the latest in a wave of operators to abandon the conventional image of the hostess in run-free tights, immaculate white blouse and neat hat. It follows EasyJet, which began flying between London and Scotland last

year, and which dresses its cabin crew in sweatshirts.

The Dutch-owned Denim will operate two round trips a day between London City Airport, Docklands, and Eindhoven from April 26. The logo on the side of its planes will be in denim blue.

Ray Gaffney of Denim says: "We wanted to do something different. We see ourselves as a young, competitive operator, much the same as Virgin and Lauda Air."

Disneyland Paris announces its latest attraction. The price.

"Indiana Jones" and the Temple of Peril, Big Thunder Mountain and, of course, Space Mountain — the greatest adventure in the universe. Disneyland Paris has always had plenty of attractions for the whole family.

Even the prices are an attraction in their own right; there are many special offers available this April, while during May and June, a family of four can enjoy four great days of fun and excitement for just £118 each.

This includes a return trip by Le Shuttle for one car, three nights at the three-star Sequoia Lodge, continental breakfast and, best of all, unlimited entry to the Park.

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Business flyers ape Garbo

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

BUSINESS travellers may be among the world's most frequent flyers, but a new survey shows they are an antisocial group, eager to avoid other passengers.

The survey, by the publishers of the *Official Airlines Guides (OAG)*, of 2,200 executives who regularly fly on business found that four out of ten had at some time changed their airline seats to avoid a fellow traveller on their flight. Another fifth of those surveyed had asked at check-in to be seated as far as possible from other passengers. This Greta Garbo "I want to be alone" approach applied mostly to older and male frequent-flyers, say the OAG researchers. If travelling executives have to sit next to someone, their ideal passenger is "someone you don't need to talk to".

The most antisocial travellers are those based in Hong Kong. It seems, closely followed by British and American executives.

The myth of picking up a new social partner remains just that, especially for American business travellers, although the French are more willing to use their time to form a friendship with a fellow passenger. The British are more likely than any other

nationality to complain to the cabin crew about their neighbour's behaviour.

The comprehensive survey also suggests there are national stereotypes of business travellers. The British, it says, are most likely to be demanding a free drink in the executive lounge before a flight. They are the least focused on work and career and most willing to give up their seat for money on an overbooked flight. The survey says: "When they are propping up the bar, the last thing on their mind is sending a fax."

The British executive in the air also comes out as a "moaning Minnie", usually complaining about the injustice of someone else getting a seat upgrade or paying a lower fare. The French, on the other hand, "are the most conscientious at being charming to check-in staff in order to get a flight upgrade". They fly Air France whenever possible.

German executives surveyed also live up to their image, being mostly concerned with efficiency criteria such as punctuality, modern aircraft and a smooth check-in. Americans are obsessed by frequent-flyer programmes and less concerned about the amount of legroom they have or type of plane. But they are the most aggressive at seeking flight upgrades.

SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in the Weekend section:
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NEWS

Blair courts Wall St with tax pledge

Tony Blair flew into New York to tell some of the world's leading financiers that a Labour Britain would be a safe bet for their investments. Within hours of arriving for a three-day visit, the Labour leader told a Wall Street audience that he was a "passionate free-trader". He assured them of his commitment to enterprise and promised that Labour would set tax rates that would not deter overseas companies. Page 1

Church urged to attract young back

Fundamental change is needed to stop young people abandoning the Church of England in droves, the General Synod is to be told after a study found that youth attendance had dropped by a third in seven years. Lack of interest by youngsters threatens the future of Anglicanism. Page 1

Tyson assault claim

Mike Tyson, the heavyweight boxing champion, is under investigation after a woman complained of sexual assault in a Chicago nightclub. Page 1

MPs' survival guide

Anthony Steen, MP, could have hit on a growth industry. A veteran campaigner, he has written an expert guide for a fellow Conservative MP on how to save his marginal seat. Page 1

Beef ban stays

The blanket ban on British beef remained in force after EU officials turned a deaf ear to calls for beef by-products such as gelatin and tallow to be taken off the prohibited list. Page 2

'Safe' Ecstasy row

A claim that Ecstasy is safer than aspirin by the director of social work in Glasgow brought calls for her resignation from drug rehabilitation workers. Page 3

Boarding school blow

Boarding schools face a fall in pupils after the Inland Revenue confirmed that thousands of parents are to lose tax concessions on money set aside to pay for school fees. Page 4

Culinary fightback

Two top London restaurateurs are planning to teach the French a lesson in modern gastronomy when they open British restaurants in Paris. Page 5

Where giant angel fears to tread

A campaign to stop a massive sculpture being placed in a run-down area of Tyneside gathered momentum with news of a £584,000 grant from the National Lottery. The idea of a 65ft-high steel angel being sited near Gateshead has divided the community. "Stop the Statue" campaigners claim the £800,000 cost would be better spent on hospitals. Page 8

Defective planning

When the Tories won the 1992 general election party leaders knew that deaths would whittle down their majority. Few believed defections would effectively wipe it out. Page 10

Guildhall offer

London's historic Guildhall is being offered to the Labour Party as a home for the elected body with which it is planning to replace the former Greater London Council. Page 11

Liberia rescue

Under heavy artillery fire, more than 150 foreigners were evacuated from Liberia as factional fighting flared across the city for the fifth day. Pages 1, 12

Harassment claims

Women at a Japanese car factory near Chicago who had their bottoms and breasts pinched and were called names have launched America's biggest sexual harassment case. Page 13

Chernobyl fallout

A decade after the Chernobyl accident contaminated vast reaches of Europe, inhabitants of the former Soviet Union and its neighbours face the threat of another nuclear disaster. Page 14

Britain must play part

Britain will be expected to play along with a system linking EU currencies to the euro, the European Commission said. Page 15



Sydney Ravens refigting Culloden during a visit to the Bonnie Prince Charlie exhibition at the National Army Museum in London yesterday

Building business

Bristol & West is expected to announce soon that it is to merge with a publicly quoted British company. Page 25

Fortes

A dispute over the final pay package of Sir Rocco Forte has allowed him to retain his Forte and Savoy directorships three months after the companies were acquired by Granada. Page 25

Liquid gold

The Government raised £77 million through the sale of its remaining shares in six water companies. Page 25

Markets

The FT-SE 100 index rose 8.8 points to 3767.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.9 to 83.7 after a fall from \$1.5247 to \$1.5168 and from DM2.2761 to DM2.2735. Page 28

Golf

Colin Montgomerie starts the 60th Masters with something about to be fitted on his shoulders: the winner's green jacket or the albatross of failing to win another major championship. Page 48

Rugby union

Representatives of England's leading clubs will try to buy time today before deciding whether to bow to their governing body. Page 46

Rowing

Steven Redgrave, winner of three Olympic gold medals and six world championships, said that he would make his last competitive appearance in this summer's Olympics. Page 48

Football

Wales have chosen an experimental side for the match against Switzerland on April 24. Page 45

New films

With his latest movie, *Mighty Aphrodite*, Woody Allen proves that he has not lost his touch despite 25 years of movie-making, while John Travolta confirms his superstar status in the explosive *Broken Arrow*. Page 33

Hollywood here

John Woo is the Hollywood director who never bumps off a badie with three bullets when 15 will do. Page 34

Stars lack lustre

Michael Siberry as Petruccio and Josie Lawrence as Kate get little chance to shine in the RSC's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Page 35

Musical triumph

The controversial "modernised" production of Verdi's early masterpiece, *Nabucco*, arrives at Covent Garden where fine singing saves the day. Page 35

Two of a kind

Martin Fletcher on the impending battle between workaholic Elizabeth Dole and domineering Hillary Clinton in the presidential elections. Page 17

Royal issue

If only cellulite rhymed with Aphrodite, we would find puckered thighs much more charming. Page 17

Roland Boyes

His memory dimming, his energy fading, the MP for Houghton and Washington finally discovered he had Alzheimer's. Page 16

Sailing on

Passengers are flocking to book cruises on Cunard's *Royal Viking Sun* despite last week's reef crash. Page 23

Am I A Murderer?

Bernard Levin on the very worst choice of all: Karen Armstrong on the dangers of witch-hunting. Pages 36, 37

The UN Security Council

The message should not be lost on Liberia's warring rivals. Fail to comply with calls for peace and Liberians risk losing the support of the international community. The consequences could be even more sombre than what is happening now. Page 19

Preview: Chris Ellison, once of The Bill, turns sports promoter. Ellington (TV, 9pm) Review: Peter Barnard enjoys a search for the ideal flatmate. Page 47

The empty pew

Restless innovation will not halt the Anglican Church's decline. Page 19

Out of Liberia

Donors will have to work with Liberia's criminal warlords, knowing that much Western aid will go astray. They should hold their noses, and help. Page 19

Of tubby mice and men

Middle age — when one can do just as much as ever, but would rather not — is the time when most bodies expand and some horizons shrink. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

My impression is that champagne socialists are really dry white wine socialists nowadays, a good white burgundy from Berry Brothers in the Hampstead set, and something quite acceptable from the Napa Valley in Islington. Page 18

MAGNUS LINKLATER

"A generation without rules" is the way one commentator describes those young people who have no structure to their home lives, whose parents may be separated or simply absent, who are deprived of the normal routine of family life. With no codes of behaviour and no conventional relationships to guide them, it is unsurprising if they drop out of society. Page 18

JOHN BRYANT

More than 10,000 runners are carrying the Olympic torch in a ritual that seems to reek of antiquity. But the truth is that the torch relay is younger by half a century than its sponsor, Coca-Cola, and was dreamt up as a propaganda exercise for the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Page 46

Richard Condon, American thriller writer, Jo Privat, accordionist, Peter Nadler, Provost of Gresham College, civil servant and university professor. Page 21

Meeting Europe's demands for cattle slaughter, the future of Nato evolution of the eye; security in employment. Page 19



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ROCK David Sinclair meets Paul Westerberg, an alternative American rock 'n' roll hero

PLUS... Valerie Grove talks to Simon Wiesenthal about the new biography of the Nazi-hunter

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,139

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the corners of the starting squares. The grid is 25 squares wide and 25 squares high.

- ACROSS
1 Potentially eruptive situation that could make top people act (12).
8 Less radical teaching union facing row (7).
9 The writer in the family flourished (7).
11 Agricultural work done as long as youth lasts (7).
12 They protect piggies confined to back room (7).
13 With this bowler you might expect to get a duck (5).
14 Dogs I round on in pub, making sudden attack (9).
16 Dealer named in connection with arts possibly (9).
19 Horticultural material miller's boy left inside (5).
21 Expat number of people at meeting (7).
23 German fellow or Turk? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,138. A grid of letters forming words like BRIGANTINE, SLEEP, MAINTOP, etc.

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

Table with weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, South East, and Northern Ireland. Columns include region, sun, rain, and other weather indicators.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with roadwatch information for various routes, including London & SE traffic, M25, and M4.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with sunrise and sunset times for London and other locations.

FORECAST

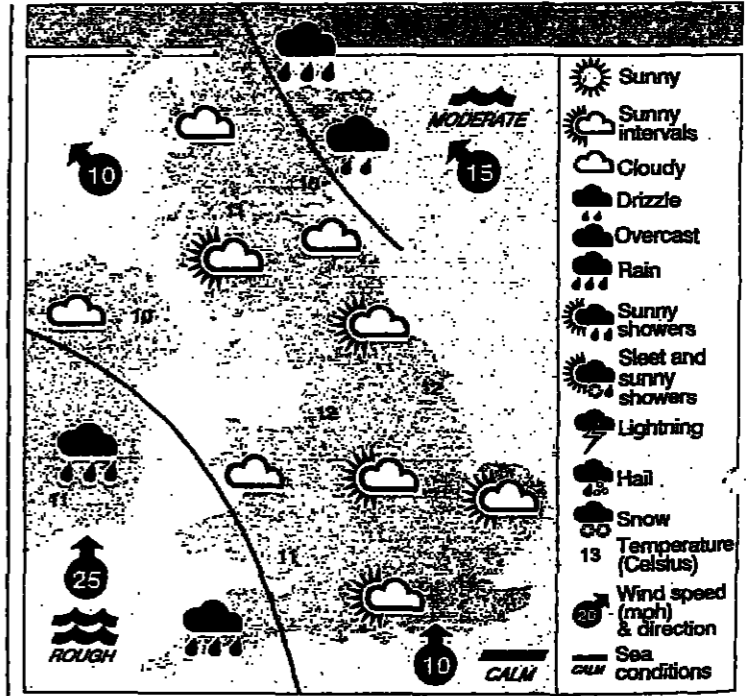
General: England and Wales will get off to a misty start but most inland areas will become brighter with some sunshine. Patchy drizzle is likely along North Sea coasts, while wind and rain will reach the South West later.

AROUND-BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with weather data for various cities across Britain, including temperature, wind, and rain.

ABROAD

Table with weather data for various international locations like Madrid, Moscow, and Tokyo.



Changes to chart below from noon: low F will move northeast, then southeast, filling later. Low X will fill. High N will drift west and weaken a little. High A will sink southwards.

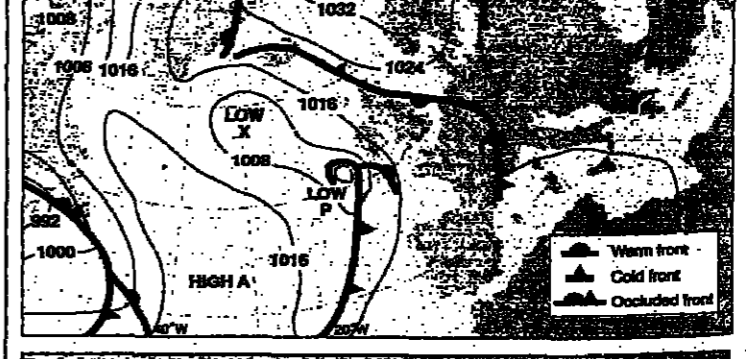


Table with today's weather forecast for various cities, including temperature and wind.

Advertisement for Bermuda Tourism with the headline 'The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.' and contact information for Bermuda Tourism.



JANET BUSH 29 Will the British consumer salvage the recovery?



BOOKS 36, 37 Mary Warnock on women's role in modern philosophy



SPORT 43-48 Is Montgomerie ready to master Augusta?

WOODY ALLEN'S SWEET SUCCESS Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996



Slow climb: Paul Harrison, right, chief executive of Alpha Airports, the inflight catering and retail group, and Stuart Siddall, finance director designate, reported a fall in profits to £20.6 million last year, from £21.4 million in 1994

Eight more companies closed down by the ICS

By Robert Miller The Investors Compensation Scheme, the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, yesterday closed down a further eight firms...

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and GOLD prices.

Bristol & West poised to reveal merger plan

By Robert Miller BRISTOL & WEST, the ninth-largest building society, with assets of £9 billion, is expected to unveil plans next Monday of a takeover by a group listed on the London stock market...

DTI had warning on ostrich venture

By Robert Miller and Karen Zagor THE Department of Trade and Industry received official warnings about the Ostrich Farming Corporation more than a year before it was ordered to cease trading by the High Court last week...

UBS expected to reject merger talks

UNION Bank of Switzerland is today expected to turn down the offer of merger talks with CS Holding, writes Patricia Tehan. The board will meet to consider an approach made by CS Holding...

Shares bring in £76m for State

By Paul Durman THE Government yesterday raised £76.8 million through the sale of its remaining shares in six water companies. Both the Treasury and NM Rothschild, the Government's financial adviser, dismissed any suggestion that the timing of the sale was influenced by the prospect of Labour forming the next administration...

Pay battle leaves Sir Rocco on board



A DISPUTE over the final pay package of Sir Rocco Forte has allowed him to retain his Forte and Savoy directorships three months after the companies were acquired by Granada for £3.9 billion. It emerged yesterday. Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said Granada has reached settlements with all the Forte directors except Sir Rocco...

Confidential secure advertisement for Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland (CI) Limited, featuring a list of services and contact information.

EU launches \$1.3bn aid for small business

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union unveiled a \$1.3 billion financial aid package for small businesses yesterday as part of plans to combat the high unemployment that persists across Europe. The aid is part of a plan by Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission, to increase the jobs created across Europe.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU's Finance Commissioner, said the objective was to create 30,000 jobs a year with loan guarantees that help small businesses get credit at lower rates of borrowing. Priority will be given to companies with fewer than 50 employees. M de Silguy said at the launch of the scheme that such firms are essential to employment growth, but often have problems securing adequate financing because banks consider them a relatively high credit risk.

He said the money to cover the aid package will come from the Luxembourg-based European Investment Fund. But the plan must first be approved by all 15 member governments of the EU. The European Investment Fund will stand behind 50 per cent of the total value of most loans. For companies investing in crossborder projects involving more than one EU member, 75 per cent of a loan may be covered.

M Santer says reducing the European Union's 11 per cent jobless rate is the top priority. He has called a "social summit" of European business and labour leaders this month to seek common ground on how best to get the 18 million unemployed back to work.

The fund was established in 1994 at a summit of European Union leaders in Edinburgh to promote economic growth. Its main objective is to support financing for a series of trans-European transport and energy projects. The European Commission has a 30 per cent stake in the fund. About 40 per cent is held by the European Investment Bank, the EU's long-term lending arm. The rest is shared among 70 financial institutions.

Lang urges Japanese to open up telecoms

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday urged Japan to open up its telecommunications market and called for greater urgency in deregulating the economy.

Speaking on the second day of a visit to Japan to promote British exports and encourage more Japanese investors to come to Britain, Mr Lang told journalists he would like to see deregulation "go further and faster".

He conveyed a similar message to Ichiro Hino, Post and Telecommunications Minister. Mr Lang welcomed a recent promise to ease restrictions on foreign investment in telecommunications in 1997 and expressed hope that such reforms would be expanded.

Most British equipment makers and service providers are excluded from Japan's telecommunications market by NTT, the domestic telephone monopoly. Mr Lang believes that only persistent pressure by foreign governments on Japan to deregulate will win access to closed sectors such as telecoms and insurance. Many Japanese business leaders share this view, acknowledging that their government will cut red tape and regulations only if the US and Europe apply strong pressure.

In this spirit, the Keidanren, Japan's equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry, gave Mr Lang a platform to address 150 businessmen on the British experience of deregulation. Mr Lang said that deregulation and a commitment to free and open international markets had transformed Britain's economy. The Japanese were invited to follow Britain's example and overcome the rigidities in their economy. Mr Lang added that "a more deregulated market will encourage British firms to play a more active role in the economic success of Japan".

The message makes a change from commercial diplomacy of the past 20 years, when British ministers visiting Tokyo have concentrated all their energies on specific irritants, such as barriers to Scotch whisky, with few visible results.

Evidence of Japan's growing taste for imports came in figures released by the Finance Ministry yesterday. These showed that Japan's current account surplus fell nearly 40 per cent in February, to ¥745.9 billion (£4.5 billion), from £2.2 trillion yen a year earlier. "The pace of the fall in the surplus was faster than the Government had anticipated," a senior Finance Ministry official said. "Japan's import and industrial structures have changed to an unexpected degree."



Expansion minded: Sir Denys Henderson, left, and Andrew Teare, yesterday

Growth hopes lift Rank

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Rank, the entertainment and leisure group, rose yesterday after it said trading prospects in this financial year are encouraging. At the company's annual meeting, Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, said: "Overall, we have laid the foundations for a profitable expansion in years to come."

The shares finished at 513p, up 6p. Earlier, the company reported a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £407 million in the year to December 31. Rank has sold a 40 per cent stake in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corp for £620 million and has completed the disposal of the Royal Garden, the last of its business hotels, for £66 million. It will use the proceeds to invest in the leisure and

entertainment industries. Andrew Teare, chief executive, plans to expand its British, Spanish and Canadian bingo clubs and open more Oasis Village holiday centres and Hard Rock Cafe restaurants. Rank is also considering listing its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pennington Page 27

Extra cash found for Maxwell creditors

BY JON ASHWORTH

CREDITORS of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC) are to receive a fourth dividend, of 3.5p in the pound, taking the total paid to 34.5p in the pound, or about £75 million. Price Waterhouse, administrator of MCC, expects the total to settle at between 38p and 43p in the pound, ignoring recoveries from pending legal actions.

Actions are outstanding against a range of parties, including Coopers & Lybrand, MCC's auditor, and various private Maxwell companies. Claims against underwriters in connection with a fidelity insurance policy, covering alleged dishonesty by Maxwell employees, have been the subject of a preliminary hearing in London.

MCC owed about \$3 billion to creditors, mainly banks, when it was declared insolvent in 1991. More than \$1 billion has been raised from sales involving the 400 companies under MCC.

Mark Homan, senior joint administrator of MCC, said various mopping up activities remained. Funds have been retained in America towards possible liabilities. Provisions against tax are expected to be freed soon, and dividends from subsidiary companies are likely to flow through.

Professional fees have topped \$71 million, about half of that on solicitors and other advisers. A further \$23 million has gone on litigation and investigating potential law suits for recovery.

The fourth dividend will be paid to creditors on April 18.

US banks test card to oust cash

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

FOUR of America's biggest financial institutions are combining to introduce smartcards that are designed to replace everyday cash transactions by using memory chips.

Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, America's two largest banks, are linking with Visa and Mastercard, the two leading credit card groups, to develop and market a smartcard that will eventually be accepted nationwide. The companies say that their alliance is necessary to achieve the critical mass required for the card to gain general acceptance among the public.

The partners will test their card on Manhattan's Upper West Side, an affluent middle-class neighbourhood, with 30,000 customers and 500 retailers. If the scheme is successful, it will be extended in the New York area with the eventual aim of spreading it across the US.

The experiment mimics a scheme in the UK, where the more sophisticated Mondex smartcard had had disappointing results in attracting residents of Swindon. Smartcards hold huge attractions for banks, which want to cut the huge sums they spend on handling cash.

Company spending boost for economy

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NEAR-RECORD levels of growth in business investment in February were yesterday hailed as a tangible sign of better economic prospects ahead by the Finance & Leasing Association, which released its latest figures.

The FLA reported that demand for plant and equipment in February was 65 per cent higher than the same month a year ago. This is the second highest year-on-year increase since Britain began to pull out of recession in early 1992.

Martin Hall, the FLA's Director-General, said: "We are very encouraged by the latest set of industry figures. They confirm the upward trend in

investment hinted at in January. At last, the recovery seems to be gathering pace."

Demand for finance to buy big ticket items, a category that covers capital projects worth over £5 million, jumped by 291 per cent from a year ago to £317 million. Finance for other plant and equipment — excluding cars — grew by 24 per cent from a year ago to total £600 million.

Demand for credit from consumers was also improved. Retail instalment credit reached record highs after a 72 per cent jump to £162 million. Demand for new car finance was up 5 per cent at £307 million, the seventh consecutive monthly rise.

Protests expected at special meeting over Abbey takeover

Bitter victory awaits N&P

BY SARA MCCONNELL



Shuttleworth: criticism

THE 1.4 million members of the National & Provincial Building Society are today expected to vote overwhelmingly in favour of being taken over by Abbey National, the building society turned bank.

But the N&P board, chaired by Lord Shuttleworth, is bracing itself for a barrage of criticism from angry members objecting to the takeover, either on principle or because they have been excluded from bonus payouts which could total up to £4,750 per member. The majority of N&P's one

million savers and 400,000 borrowers who want to vote will already have done so by post. Others are expected at Manchester's 10,000-seat Nymex Centre for the society's special general meeting, many to register their protest in person.

Complaints made to The Times about the takeover centre on the failure of N&P branches to warn members that withdrawing money or changing accounts after the takeover announcement could exclude them from payouts.

Longstanding members are also angry that many people who opened accounts in response to takeover speculation this time last year will get a payout while they are excluded.

Brian Murphy, the building societies ombudsman, this week promised to press for wider powers to deal with the complaints of excluded members. He has been inundated with complaints from members of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, Halifax and Leeds as well as the N&P.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

China to buy 30 jets from Airbus

CHINA last night confirmed a £1.5 billion order for 30 A320 passenger jets from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace holds a 20 per cent stake. The order marks a strategic breakthrough in the world's fastest-growing aircraft market, which has previously been dominated by Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of the United States. Airbus calculates that during the next 18 years the Chinese are likely to order 1,320 airliners worth \$100 billion to meet passenger growth of up to 10 per cent a year as the economy takes off.

Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, signed the contract to acquire the 30 aircraft on a visit to Paris. With 150 seats each, the A320s are considered ideal for short to medium-haul flights between Chinese cities. Wings for the aircraft will be made at Chester, while final assembly will take place in Hamburg, Germany. To support its Chinese sales campaign, Airbus, owned jointly by BAE, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Casa of Spain, has built a \$50 million maintenance centre in Beijing. China also confirmed an order for three long-haul A340 aircraft. At present, Chinese carriers operate just 27 Airbus planes.

BAT disposal blocked

AMERICA'S Federal Trade Commission has rejected a plan by BAT Industries to divest six discount cigarette brands to Lorillard Tobacco Co, a subsidiary of Loews Corp. The FTC expressed concern that Lorillard would not compete aggressively in the discount cigarette market and that it may lead to closure of a cigarette plant in North Carolina. BAT now must find a new buyer for the assets. The FTC has ordered BAT to divest itself of its discount brands, the Reidville plant and three full-revenue brands.

German jobless at 4.1m

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany fell in March, from 11.1 per cent to 10.8 per cent of the active population, although seasonally adjusted figures given by the Federal Labour Office showed a slight rise. The total number looking for work was 4.141 million, compared to 4.27 million in February, which was a post-war high. In western Germany, the jobless fell 92,300 to 2,868 million. In eastern Germany, it fell by 36,800 to 1,273 million. After correction for seasonal variations, the figures showed a rise in unemployment of 26,000.

Crossair flights to soar

CROSSAIR, the Swiss regional carrier, is planning 124,000 flights during 1996, up 84 per cent on 1995. The Swissair subsidiary said expansion and accompanying efficiency gains are expected to underpin a "significant rise" in 1996 profits. The company yesterday announced net profits of \$17.5 million (£9.52 million) for 1995, up from \$16.1 million in 1994. During the first quarter this year, the low-point of the travel season, Crossair lost \$17.4 million. Moritz Suter, chief executive said this was \$11.1 million better than expected.

Signet sale progress

SIGNET GROUP, the former Ratners jewellery business, yesterday said plans to sell its Ernest Jones and H Samuel chains were progressing but that no deal was likely to be struck in the immediate future. Signet, which also owns Sterling in America, put its UK jewellery operations up for sale in January. The disposals could realise up to £300 million, which will help to reduce the group's £350 million of debt. This would help profitability as the group is weighed down by hefty interest bills.

Zeneca breakthrough

THE agrochemicals division of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, yesterday received approval to sell Amistar, its new fungicide, in Germany. Amistar is to be used to control fungal diseases in cereal crops such as wheat, barley and rye. It was approved by the German authorities in a relatively short 10 months. Zeneca estimated that the market for cereal crop fungicides in Germany is worth \$320 million a year, or about 6 per cent of the world market.

US airline sues GEC

AMERICA'S United Airlines is taking legal action against GEC, alleging breach of a £50 million contract to supply inflight entertainment equipment to United's Boeing 777 fleet. GEC-Marconi Inflight Systems (GMIS), the GEC subsidiary that was to supply the equipment, said it would be instructing lawyers to defend the proceedings and pursue "appropriate claims on its behalf for the recovery of substantial amounts due from United Airlines". GMIS said United was insisting on the continued use of the GMIS systems already installed.

Record lending at ICG

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the provider of mezzanine finance, reported a record year for lending in 1995, with a £33 million increase in the loan book to £10 million. Clients last year included Wighlink, Mecorco, Lloyd's List, Automotive Products and Coal Products. ICG's profits rose to £19.1 million before tax from £18.1 million, lifting earnings to 27.6p a share from 26.3p. There is a final dividend of 9.1p a share, making a total of 13.4p, up from 11.5p previously. The shares rose 1p to 353p.

Headlam advances

HEADLAM GROUP, the floorcovering and fabrics distribution company, defied difficult trading conditions to lift pre-tax profits to £77 million from £58 million in 1995. Earnings were 12.5p a share, rising from 10.1p. There is a final dividend of 3.6p a share, lifting the total to 4.5p from 4p. The shares rose 15p to 248p yesterday. Ian Kirkham, chief executive, said the current year had started well. There were signs of a selective recovery in consumer spending, which created a more buoyant feeling among customers.

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.02	1.85
Belgium Fr	17.07	15.57
Canada \$	49.93	45.83
Denmark Kr	2.175	2.015
Cyprus Cyp	0.754	0.699
Finland Mk	9.43	8.62
France Fr	7.71	7.08
Germany Dm	8.18	7.53
Italy Lit	2.44	2.25
Japan Yen	390.00	365.00
Netherlands Gld	202.00	191.00
New Zealand \$	1.02	0.91
Spain Ptas	5.1900	4.8300
Sweden Kr	173.60	163.60
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.85
USA \$	2.075	1.915
UK £	2.38	2.16
Hong Kong \$	10.47	9.6
Portugal Esc	202.00	191.00
S Africa R	6.85	6.05
Singapore S	198.00	185.00
Switzerland Fr	10.92	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.90	1.70
USA \$	1.619	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Rentokil ser

□ Rail privatisation still on track □ No ifs and buts over ERM □ Wall Street quote for Rank?

Salmon leaps

□ ROGER SALMON'S early departure, an unusual concept in railway history, does not signal that the rail revolution he has played so great a part in realising, is in trouble. Far from it. Unlikely as it may seem, rail privatisation has built up steam and is on its way out of the station, travelling with too much momentum for Labour to have the courage to recall it.

In a sense, the franchise director's task changed in mid-stream. At the start, it focused on putting the 25 train operators into the private sector, with the safety factor that Railtrack, their main supplier, stayed in state hands. The priority changed to getting enough services out of British Rail fast enough to underwrite Railtrack's own sale. This task is done.

Franchising is well behind ministers' desired schedule, but many of the important franchises have been agreed or are on the way. By the time the long-serving Rothschild director quits the public arena he finds so uncomfortable, new franchising exercises will be suffering from election blight.

To get the train moving, Mr Salmon has had to ladle out largesse from taxpayers in amounts that are likely to prove embarrassing in retrospect. He has also had to make life easier for train operators to keep the

subsidies within some bounds. This meant persuading the rail regulator to abandon competition, which was originally one of the lynchpins of rail reform. It also meant taking so generous a view of minimum service that the courts intervened. Ministers had to issue lax new instructions to match.

By now, it is hard to remember when nobody wanted a rail franchise. But that was only 18 months ago. Had that persisted, Mr Salmon's job would have been impossible. As he admits, the structure has changed so much that there is no way of knowing what a reasonable subsidy might be. So the franchise director had to rely on there being competing bids and that meant being financially friendly and generous to potential bidders.

As a merchant banker dedicated to striking deals, Mr Salmon became a *bête noir* for Labour. An incoming Labour government can live with the Whitehall-honed subtleties of John Swift, the rail regulator. But the franchise directorate is so anathema to the Opposition, and

Mr Salmon so temperamentally out of sympathy, that Labour aims to abolish his post and hand what is left back to the rump of British Rail. That makes Opra a ship worth jumping even if its job is nearing port.

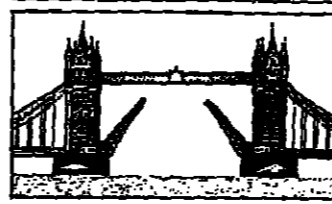
Even if Mr Salmon had stayed, it would have been many years before taxpayers could work out whether he did a good job. Certainly not until the first contracts have been worked out, an average of more than seven years after they were let. At this stage, it is a fair guess that taxpayers will not be the winners. Nothing in Labour's plans is likely to change that.

Gentlemen are wary of Verona

□ EUROS are going soft even before they are issued. When EU finance ministers gather in Verona today, they will find that the argument has changed radically since it became clear that the European currency would be anything but single.

Italians and Belgians still rely on being counted in at the door.

PENNINGTON



whatever the rules say, and who can be sure they are wrong. Brussels, Paris and Berlin are now assuming, however, that the Euro will start as a minority EU currency. The psychological shift this produces is only now beginning to show up. The City of London used to be afraid that sterling would be left out and marginalised. No more. Instead, founding euro-users are afraid. They will lose national flexibility but may gain relatively little in exchange.

French, German and Dutch businesses are afraid less of each other than of Italian, British or non-EU rivals. Hence the pressure to corral Kenneth Clarke and the rest into a new exchange-rate mechanism under the

surety of the European central bank where they could be legally obliged to obey "single" currency rules. Outsiders would be crazy to agree, unless they see themselves simply as cadet members of the euro bloc.

The fewer countries convert to the euro, the more it is likely to be like an *ersatz* mark, to the continuing discomfort of France, but the relief of business in Italy, Spain *et al*, which suffered mark strength until 1993. If weaker brethren were inside, the euro would be weaker and comfortable to the French and Benelux economies. But this would not apply if Latin currencies were stuck in the outer circle.

If the euro is narrowly-based, however, it may also be distorted by use as a parallel currency in non-member states. This would present the European central bank with money management problems much bigger than the Bundesbank encountered as the mark became international.

Perhaps Nigel Lawson's dream that sterling could compete successfully with the mark would then become realistic. Being flexible could earn lower

interest rates, not just be a device to keep industry competitive. No wonder Verona is famed for obscure plots.

Gifford gives up the gong

□ RANK'S annual meeting, presided over by Sir Denis Henderson, former chairman of ICI, marked the end of Michael Gifford's 12-year reign as chief executive. Gifford's style was to duck the limelight on the basis that Rank's results should speak for themselves; an attitude that went down well with City institutions which account for an extraordinarily high 96 per cent of Rank's equity.

In the space of six years, Gifford, determined to refocus Rank, sold some £400 million worth of businesses, representing 70 per cent of the asset base. Acquisitions between 1986 and 1990 amounted to some £1.3 billion, culminating in the £900 million purchase of Mecca in 1990. Some £140 million was expended on video duplication and film laboratory operations

in the US, niche operations in which Rank, dominant in UK cinemas, holidays and bingo, has also emerged as market leader. During Gifford's reign, pre-tax profits rose from £69 million to £407 million, on turnover up from £743 million to £2.3 billion. Market capitalisation has, aptly, risen more than 12 times to £4.2 billion. Gifford is succeeded by Andrew Teare, the former chief executive of English China Clays. Expansion is under way on both sides of the Atlantic, courtesy of the £620 million raised last year from the sale of the 40 per cent stake in Rank Xerox. Rank's ambitious association with Universal Studios Florida could well signal a Wall Street quote. Little more than 6 per cent of Rank's stock is currently held in the US.

Waiting for the tip

□ IT'S an ill wind. Sir Rocco remains chairman of Forte plc solely because Granada won its takeover bid. If the Forte family had won, the former chairman and chief executive was pledged to vacate the chair in favour of Anthony Tennant. As it is, he is staying in his seat until Granada has agreed the cheque. Sir Rocco, of all people, will surely not be put off if the waiters put the chairs on the tables around him.



Dermot Smurfit, left, and Gerry Fagan, finance director, are aware that destocking and oversupply are worrying analysts

Smurfit gives a warning as profits leap by 250%

By CARL MORTSHED

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the Irish packaging group, gave warning of weak demand for some of its products and a threat from increasing paper supplies from the United States as it reported a record pre-tax profit of Ir£420 million, a 250 per cent increase over the result in 1994.

Smurfit shares were unmoved by the profits which Dermot Smurfit, deputy chairman, described as an outstanding and "an all-time high for an Irish company." However, signs of a price squeeze from destocking and oversup-

ply of linerboard are leading City analysts to forecast a fall in the company's earnings.

Last year, earnings increased 233 per cent to 28p and the dividend for the year is 4p, up 50 per cent on 1994. The company is proposing a scrip dividend alternative.

Smurfit gave warning that the build-up of inventories was being worsened by weak demand for corrugated containers and increasing supply from new investment.

The company said: "We are in for a period of weak pricing

until demand catches up with the new higher capacity of our industry." Mr Smurfit said that cheap American kraftliner - linerboard made from virgin pulp - was being dumped in southern Europe, depressing prices.

He said that a shutdown by some producers for a month would remove the stock build-up but he said his company "was not predicting a strong pick-up".

Smurfit's profits for 1995 benefited from a full year contribution from Cellulose du Pin, the French company

acquired for Ir 684 million in 1994, and price increases. In June, the company bought Les Papeteries du Limousin and a stake in Munksjö, a Swedish pulp and paper company.

Aside from acquisitions, Smurfit spent Ir£147 million on the business last year but Mr Smurfit said capital expenditure would fall in the current year "south of Ir£100 million".

Profit in mainland Europe rose from Ir£34 million to Ir£195 million last year, thanks to the Cellulose deal, while sharp increases in prices helped Smurfit's paper reclamation plants and mills. Later in the year, prices fell and customers delayed orders, causing downtime in the mills.

In the US, profits grew from Ir£13 million to Ir£146 million but waste paper prices were volatile and Smurfit shut down its mills to reduce excessive inventories.

Mr Smurfit said the company had no intention of splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive, currently both occupied by Michael Smurfit. "We think it is right that they are combined," he said but indicated the company is appointing a chief operating officer. It is expected the candidate will emerge from within the company.

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Yule Catto payout rises 14%

By PAUL DURMAN

YULE CATTO, the speciality chemicals group, has maintained its strong track record by lifting annual pre-tax profits by 16 per cent to £33.1 million.

Lord Catto, chairman, was optimistic about this year's prospects: "With the usual vigilance on costs and the sustained motivation of our employees, we expect once more to drive higher profits from our operations."

He said the group had done well to overcome widely fluctuating raw material prices. Many of its chemical companies still managed to increase their market share. Yule Catto is paying a final dividend of 4.8p, raising the total by 14 per cent to 8p a share.

Alpha fears over Granada stake sale

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the inflight catering and retail group in which Granada has a 25 per cent stake, said yesterday it was keen to remain an independent company but that a takeover was "an outstanding possibility".

Richard Gold, Alpha's finance director, said: "It is an open secret that Granada wants to sell its stake and has appointed Lazards as an adviser. Although we have had no formal talks with Granada, we expect to hear from them in the next month or two."

"Our preference is to remain independent, but with a 25 per cent stake available in the open marketplace we realise there is an opportunity for a strategic buyer. That could not take place without the agreement of the Alpha board."

Mr Gold is to retire next month and will be replaced by

Stuart Siddal. Alpha's pre-tax profit of £20.6 million, for the 12 months to January 31, disappointed the City, which had been expecting figures closer to the £21.4 million of 1994-95.

Turnover was up 16 per cent to £52.9 million after acquisitions which included DynAir, the US aviation services group, in August last year. DynAir's six-month contribution helped to offset costs in the US and France.

In the UK, despite increases in activity and passenger numbers, some of Alpha's clients reduced their spending on passenger catering, which affected profit margins.

Earnings per share were down slightly in 1994-95 to 9.25p from 10.3p, but the total dividend rises to 5p from 4.6p, with a final 3.25p.

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Redland close to Braas deal

By PAUL DURMAN

REDLAND, the building materials group, is close to a deal on the restructuring of its European roof tiling business.

The company plans to combine its tiling interests in the United Kingdom, France, Benelux and Spain into Braas, the German tile maker in which Redland holds a 51 per cent stake. An agreement with Braas family shareholders is expected within the month.

Redland is thought to want to raise its stake in Braas to 60 per cent, the maximum the Braas family will allow. Braas will become Europe's largest tiling business, with annual sales of £1.3 billion.

Redland is also close to selling its UK brick-making business, with the venture capitalist CINVen and Wienerberger, the Austrian brick company, regarded as the favourites to buy.

Moss Bros at five-year high

By SARAH BAGNALL

MOSS BROS shares rose 36p to a five-year high of 795p after the specialist menswear retailer reported a better than expected profit and a 50 per cent increase in the annual dividend.

Pre-tax profits rose 53 per cent from £7.4 million to a record £11.3 million in the year to January 27, on the back of a 29 per cent rise in sales to £87.5 million.

Stripping out the benefits of the 22 new stores opened during the year, like-for-like sales rose 9 per cent. The

specialist menswear group ended the year with 128 shops, of which 54 traded under the Savoy Tailors Guild banner, 57 as the Suit Company and the balance as Cecil Gee.

Rowland Gee, managing director, said that the group planned to open up to 50 new stores over the next three years, as well as expanding existing sites. Capital expenditure is expected to fall from £7.5 million to £5 million in the current year.

The group ended the year

with cash balances of £20.3 million. Mr Gee would not comment on a rumoured Moss Bros bid for Austin Reed beyond saying: "We have plenty to do as the business is currently constituted."

The final dividend was lifted from 9p to 13p, making a total for the year of 18p, up from 12p. The dividend, due May 31, is being paid out of earnings of 42.5p a share, up from 27.83p last time.

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while BET lost 1/2p to 207 1/2p - the bid values BET shares at about 202p.

Some institutional shareholders are expecting a tight fight if Rentokil opts to raise its bid by only 10p or 15p. Said one: "That would not be enough for us. If they pitch it that low, there would be a genuine question of whether it would be accepted."

The shareholder said he valued BET at 25p to 250p a share. BET's share price, however, indicates that investors do not expect the new bid

to be pitched within that range.

In its defence, BET forecast a 28 per cent rise in full-year profits to £142 million before tax, and committed to raise its dividend by 27.5 per cent to 5.1p. It also predicted a 10 per cent rise in group turnover to £1.94 billion.

John Clark, chief executive of BET, has said that the offer "seems to be a desperate attempt by Rentokil to use BET's superior growth to maintain its own targets at BET shareholders' expense."

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Rentokil set to raise BET offer

By ERIC REGULY



Clark critical

RENTOKIL is today expected to raise its bid for BET, the business services group, by 10p to 25p a share in an effort to win its hostile takeover battle.

Rentokil has until Friday to raise its £1.9 billion offer, but analysts said it probably would move earlier to give it more time to complete the underwriting. The company has offered nine new Rentokil shares plus £8 in cash for every 20 BET shares. At yesterday's prices - Rentokil was off 5p to 363p

while BET lost 1/2p to 207 1/2p - the bid values BET shares at about 202p.

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Stamp of disapproval

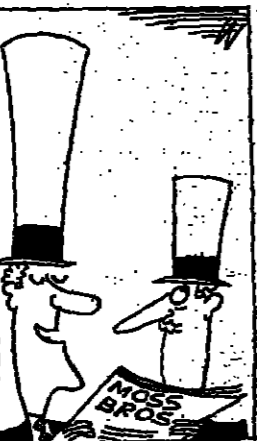
POSTAGE rates were raised by 10 per cent in Germany yesterday, less than a month before the German Post Office's court case against Citibank.

The Bonn Post Office is claiming £1.56 million in excess postage against Citibank, which routinely mails credit card bills to German customers from its European accounts centre in Holland, where rates are at least 20 per cent lower. Although it is illegal for a German organisation to mail letters to Germans from outside the country, Citibank could well win the impending case.

Backed by the Dutch Post Office, Citibank is arguing that it re-mails from Holland because its 24-hour service is far superior, not because it is cheaper than its German counterpart.

Strike a light

THE ruthless strategy behind the Headiam Group's annual results is out. When Ian "cost cutting" Kirkham, chief executive of the floor-covering distributors, acquired one of a number of small companies in November last year, he also took on 15 local salesmen, who insisted on coming into the office every Friday to write up their reports. Kirkham, however, wanted the salesmen out of the office and on the road. Unbeknown to them, he stacked up their desks and struck a match to the pile on Bonfire Night.



"50% higher payout, too."

New life

DICK BARFIELD, 49, is going it alone at the end of June, when John Thomson replaces him as chief investment manager at Standard Life. Barfield, who joined the company in 1970 as an actuarial student and was appointed a director of the Stock Exchange in 1995, will be making the most of his knowledge of financial markets and companies in an advisory capacity from home. Now is the time to take to the hills and hither, says Barfield, who currently lives with his wife and two cats ten miles outside the city of Edinburgh. "We are also looking to get a new dog," he says.

Nigerian scam

THE latest in a series of "scam letters" from Nigeria tells the pitiful tale of one Ambrose Omoh, who stole \$75.5 million by oversteering a government contract. To get the money out of the country, he is promising a 100 per cent guarantee to investors who surrender their headed notepaper and quote their bank account number. It goes on: "I quite believe that you will protect our interest by taking this deal strictly confidential, as we are still in government services, which we intend to retire from peacefully at the end of this deal."

WHILE men dream of a study of their own, women just after a designer kitchen, according to a survey by estate agents Knight Frank. When looking for property, women sniff out an Aga and men head straight for the billiard room.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH



Windfalls debate disguises risk to manufacturing jobs

Divisions among the analysts don't tell the whole story, says Janet Bush

The undisputed mutual consensus that erupted recently between two of Britain's best-known monetarist economists has been a welcome piece of vaudeville for analysts disenchanted with this year's interminable winter.

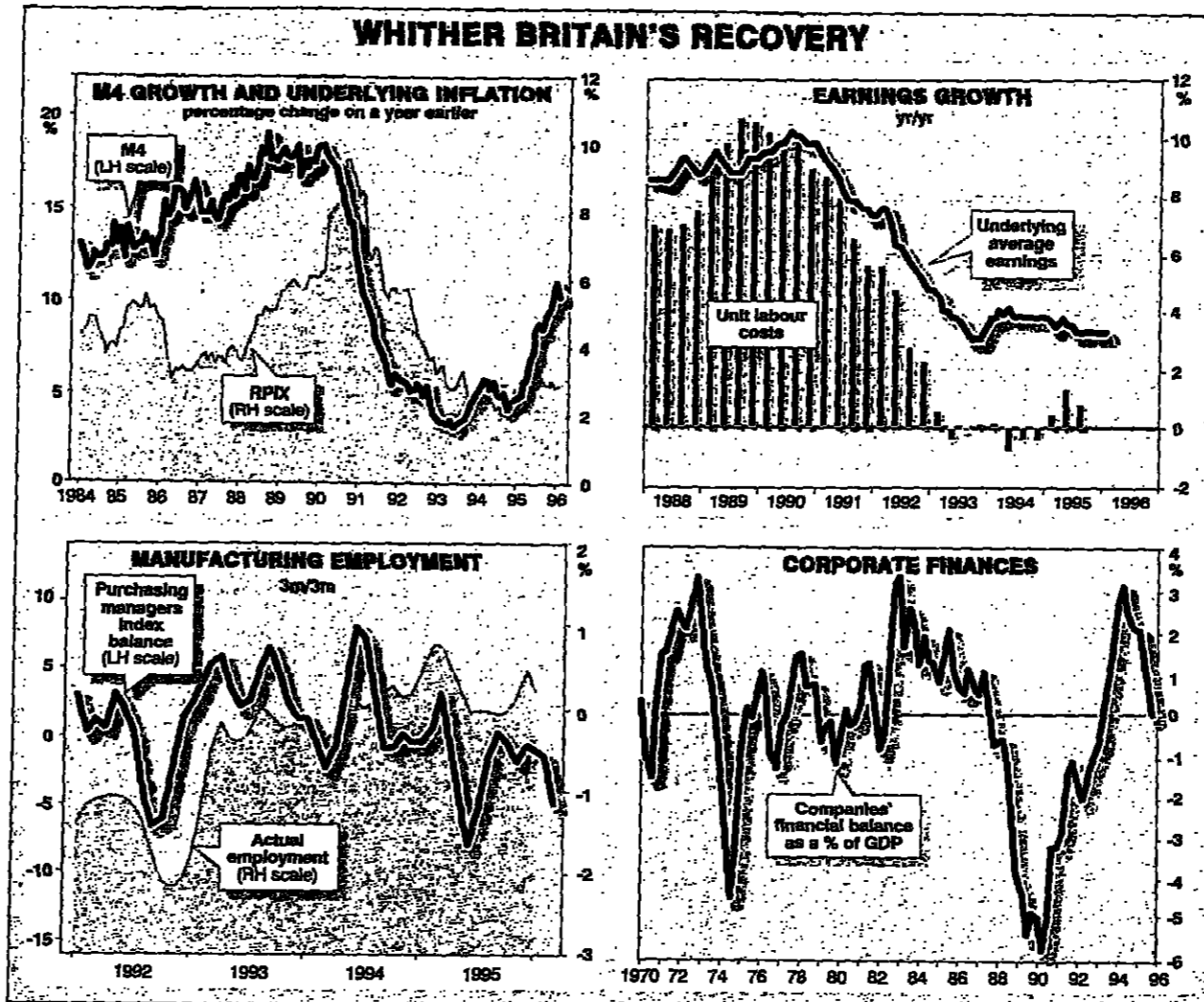
Last month, Professor Patrick Minford accused fellow advisers to the Chancellor of counselling caution — which he thinks amounts to political suicide. He called for another 2 per cent off base rates or — even better — for Kenneth Clarke to resign and make way for someone Professor Minford thinks more sensible. That provoked Professor Tim Congdon into apoplexy. He called Professor Minford a menace and a dangerous deflationist and said that it was impossible to have a proper argument with him.

Beyond the insults is a genuinely cavernous gap in economic perception, which can be replicated across the City. One side of the argument is the view that strong consumer spending will power the economy to healthy growth this year, that the inflation target may be under threat and that interest rates need to be raised.

Professor Congdon is in this camp. In his submission to this week's report to the Chancellor by his independent forecasting panel, he argues at length that M4 money supply currently growing at around 10 per cent year-on-year cannot be reconciled with inflation of 2.5 per cent or less, and that the rate of money growth will have to be reduced to 5 per cent if the target is to be hit. He argues that there is already, or could soon be, a good case for raising interest rates.

The other camp believes consumer spending will grow, but not dramatically; that the weakness of manufacturing will drag the whole economy lower, and that lower rates are needed to bolster growth. Professor Minford is in this camp (his call for 2 per cent off rates is so singular one assumes that he is holed up in a one-man bivouac). He believes that the current stagnation in manufacturing, as firms totter under the weight of huge involuntary stockpiles, could turn into something a lot nastier if interest rates are not cut.

One of the apparently unreconcilable points of difference is in interpreting the potential impact on consumer spending of various windfalls in the pipeline — maturing Tessas, bonuses paid out by merging banks and building



societies, and rebates from electricity companies.

The six-person forecasting panel disagrees on this point, of course. Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs and Bridget Rosewell of Business Strategies see the biggest positive effect from windfalls, predicting that they will add 0.6 per cent to consumption this year and 1.1 per cent next year. Professor Congdon sees only around 0.4 per cent in 1997.

Professor Minford boldly sees no impact. Indeed, in his submission to the Chancellor he even suggests an ulterior motive: "I suspect that the weakness of the bonanza argument is secretly understood by its proponents but that it is produced as one of a series of fig leaves for the unshakable prejudice that we must keep on hammering inflation until it is really, really dead."

Perhaps it's worth bringing in another monetarist to inform this debate. Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming Securities firmly believes that, if Mr Clarke is counting on windfalls to propel consumer spending 3.5 per cent higher, he is whistling in the dark. He notes, for example, that there were phenomenal opportunities for financing additional spending last year. Individuals accumulated gilts, PEPs and unit trusts but parted with about £20 billion in shares (a lot of them in privatised utilities subject to takeover bids).

All in all, individuals liquidated a net £13 billion in securities but none of this huge investment spilled into consumption. Mr Warburton

points out that additions to liquid savings swamped net disposals of securities. Why should we then believe that people are any more likely to spend available cash this year than last?

It is worth noting that, despite all this contention, only one independent forecaster of the 43 monitored every month by the Treasury is more optimistic on consumer spending growth than the Chancellor's 3.5 per cent. The other 42 are all lower and the average is 3 per cent. So, even if Professors Minford and Congdon were to agree on this point, they still wouldn't share the Chancellor's optimism.

The debate on windfalls will run and run. But there is another point to make in the current, broader debate on the economy's prospects. Everyone has noted that there is a huge gap between the strength of consumption and the weakness of manufacturing industry and that the two are entirely separate. The assumption seems to be that the economy will be OK even if manufacturing splutters along with no growth because the mighty British consumer will come to the rescue. Many economists pointed to a healthy rise in the output of consumer goods in February's industrial production figures as a sign that everything will be all right once manufacturers have got rid of excess stocks. But the truth is that durable consumer goods account for only 6 per cent of total manufacturing output.

Jan Shepherdson of HSBC Markets believes that it is

disingenuous to believe that consumers will march on regardless of the doldrums in industry. As he puts it: "Consumers are simply producers going shopping and bankrupt producers do not make for voracious shoppers." The simple point he is making is that companies stuck with huge stocks and falling demand in key home and export markets are likely to be on the verge of a new round of job-shedding.

In January, the manufacturing sector shed 27,000 jobs, the biggest single monthly clear-out for three years. Mr Shepherdson said he would not be surprised to see 100,000 manufacturing jobs lost this year and that his firm's forecast for 5 per cent base rates at the end of this year "looks more like a necessary condition for decent growth in consumption and the economy as a whole than a recipe for an inflationary boomlet".

The most recent purchasing managers' survey appears to back this view of weaker employment prospects, with its employment index falling for the third month. This has proved quite a good indicator of actual employment.

The other strand of this argument — negative in its implications for the path of the economy this year — is that companies are no longer flush with cash. In the fourth quarter, industrial and commercial companies posted a deficit of £624 million, the first minus balance since the first quarter of 1993. One of the reasons was the 33.7 per cent increase in dividend payments. With average earnings growth still at

low levels, these dividend payments provided a useful boost to disposable income last year. But with companies now in deficit, such a bonanza is most unlikely this year. Job losses are more likely.

The glass half-full brigade talk about building society windfalls: their glass half-empty colleagues point to the risks of hard-pressed manufacturers shedding labour. But a recent *Times* reader's letter might bring a useful perspective to both these views. He wrote: "Cheltenham & Gloucester was taken over by Lloyds Bank. This has indeed resulted in large credits appearing in people's investment accounts... I myself was made redundant, along with many others, from one of the constituent parts of C&G a year or so earlier, in what I now see as a downsizing to make the society more attractive to any predators." Such a commercial equation does not allow unadulterated optimism.

A mountain to climb for Swiss merger

Patricia Tehan on the overtures made to UBS by Credit Suisse

There is absolutely no financial need for Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding, parent of the Credit Suisse bank, to merge. As, respectively, the biggest and the second-biggest banks in their domestic markets, and having huge international investment banking operations, both are big enough and strong enough to continue quite happily as they are for some time. However, in a cleverly worded statement on Tuesday, CS Holding set the merger ball rolling by setting out, for public consumption, all the reasons for its decision to push its bigger rival into holding talks.

Although there is no obvious need for a merger, there is, superficially at least, clear logic for the two to get together. Switzerland has too many banks and too many high street branches, and the banks face emerging competition from telephone banking. They must make huge investments to stay competitive. There is a widely acknowledged need for consolidation in the Swiss retail banking community.

CS Holding was early in the process when, in 1993, it took over Swiss Volksbank. However, with hindsight, according to John Leonard, banking analyst with Salomon Brothers in London, the deal came too early and was too expensive.

Now the bank is active again. Apparently reluctantly, CS Holding had been forced to issue a statement after reports of a confidential telephone conversation last week between Rainer Gut, its chairman, and Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, leaked to Zurich's *Tages-Anzeiger* newspaper.

In the statement, the bank cleverly denied rumours that it was planning to rock the replacement of Dr Senn as chairman of UBS by Robert Studer, an executive. It had been whispered that CS Holding would back Martin Ebner's BK Vision, the investment fund that is UBS's largest shareholder, in plans to oppose Mr Studer's nomination at a shareholder meeting next Tuesday.

Mr Ebner's opposition to the nomination of Mr Studer and other directors was

prompted by his battle with UBS's board over implementation of a scheme to unify its share structure.

However, analysts say that, by denying its plans to back Mr Ebner, CS Holding was placing over the UBS directors the threat of switching its support. CS also made clear in its statement that it wanted the UBS directors to put the matter to shareholders, saying that, in their telephone conversation, the two chairmen had agreed "that a decision of such importance had to be made not by them, but by the shareholders".

Peter Thorne, banking analyst with Paribas, said: "CS Holding is pushing the issue and has been very aggressive over the last few years. UBS has been stalwart in not changing itself in Switzerland." To merge or not to merge, he said, "is a very difficult thing to call".

Research issued yesterday by Datamonitor, the consultancy, suggested Switzerland's financial institutions "are as vulnerable as any to the ongoing problems faced by the international banking community".

The real logic for a merger is the potential for cost savings by taking surplus capacity out of the Swiss market. Mr Leonard said that, based on conservative US models, annual cost savings available to the combined group could be SF2.2 billion (£1.08 billion), though he said it would take three or four years to get there. There is also doubt about whether the Swiss authorities would let the banks suffer the pain of up to 15,000 job cuts to achieve the savings.

Tonight will see whether UBS can be bounced into agreeing a deal by its more opportunistic rival. Given the difficulties involved in putting together the Swiss retail network, the likely loss of clients when investment banking operations are put together, the regulatory and monopoly issues in Switzerland and the US and the very different management cultures of the two, Mr Leonard said he has little doubt about the verdict from the UBS board tonight. "I expect a polite thanks but no thanks," he said.

6 To merge or not to merge is a very difficult thing to call

Jonathan Prynn on a sudden departure at Oprafr Brief encounter on the railway

The sudden departure of Roger Salmon, the mercurial and temperamental head of Oprafr, the Government's passenger rail privatisation agency, brings to an end a brief but extraordinary career in public service.

Mr Salmon was appointed to the £130,000 a year position in January 1993 and given one of the most sensitive and politically charged jobs within the gift of Government. A banker with a first-class mathematics degree from Cambridge with little or no experience in public relations was not the most obvious choice for such a high profile role. But he was well known to ministers and respected for his impressive problem-solving intellect.

However, it was clear from day one that the man responsible for selling off the railways had failed to grasp the scale of the political difficulties of the task ahead of him. Assailed on all sides, Mr Salmon quickly gained a reputation in government as an unsafe pair of hands. His early press conferences were often hijacked by Brian Mahwinney, the then Transport Secretary and his ministers from Marsham Street.

Mr Salmon, who is keen practitioner of Vipassana, a form of Buddhist meditation, was noticeably uncomfortable dealing with the media and it is said not to have enjoyed having to "sell" the privatisation policy for the Government. Although a believer in the system, he studiously sidestepped questions about his personal views on the ideology behind it. At times



Salmon: keen meditator

this left the impression that his heart was not fully behind the sell-off.

He also rarely gave interviews on the main opinion forming programmes, such as BBC Radio 4's Today programme and BBC TV's Newsnight, despite the political furor that was erupting about his ears. While admired for his powers of delegation, he was rarely seen publicly defending his allocation of hundreds of millions of pounds of public money.

The nadir of his three-year term in office was during the months surrounding Christmas last year, the time when the first franchises were being sold. What

should have been his moment of triumph descended into farce when the first sales were twice blocked by court actions and the sale of LTS Rail had to be suspended amid allegations of ticket fraud.

Colleagues close to Mr Salmon say that he came near to resigning at that time and even after being persuaded to stay decided that he would make way for a successor within months. However, since the low point, Mr Salmon's fortunes and his reputation have begun to recover. Two franchises are now successfully up and running in the private sector and three more will have been sold by the end of the month. With a following wind, all but a tiny handful of franchises will have been sold by next Spring.

Mr Salmon feels he has done his job and that it is safe for him to return to the scholarly anonymity of the world of finance. He leaves a half finished privatisation and an organisation that it almost certain to be abolished if Labour gets in at the election. Close colleagues say he believes he is leaving on a high, with his place in privatisation history assured. A less charitable view is that he has left a fractured industry that will take years to recover from the damage he has inflicted on it.

But with Labour unlikely to reverse the franchising process, his legacy is likely to be as long lasting, although hopefully more benign, than that other great bogey man of the train enthusiast world, Dr Beeching.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS
FUND AND LIFE
ASSURANCE SOCIETY
NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 182nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 7 May 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.
- To re-elect Mr R H Davey, Mr W H Main, Dr C Masters and Mr D C Ritchie as Directors.
- To fix the remuneration of Directors.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors.
- To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year.
- To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective, Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the Meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

T B Houston SSC
Group Legal Adviser and Secretary
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
3 April 1996

ACCOUNTANCY

Be vigilant on tax reforms

Nigel Doran and Ashley Greenbank on new rules for corporate debt

The Finance Bill 1996, which will become law early next month, is set to revolutionise the way in which companies are taxed on interest, profits and losses on transactions in corporate bonds and gilts.

The reasons given for the reform include the simplification of the tax system.

Although the new legislation is not easy to follow, it will sweep away dozens of hundreds of pages of difficult legislation.

The reform is also a prerequisite for the development of the official gilt strips market for which the previous tax regime was wholly unsuited.

For tax advisers, the new regime represents a logical conclusion to two earlier reforms.

These were the rules on foreign exchange gains and losses in the Finance Act 1993 and the reform of the taxation of financial instruments in the Finance Act 1994.

Both of these sought to align the tax and accounting treatment. The same approach is being adopted in the new rules for corporate and government debt.

A tax system based on the accounting treatment will be more coherent and rational



Ashley Greenbank, left, and Nigel Doran say the reforms will end much difficult legislation

than the old law, which bristled with anomalies.

For instance, holding companies received no relief for interest paid on non-bank short-term debt and no tax relief was available to any company for a loss incurred in buying its long-term debt at a premium. Equally, no tax was charged on a profit made on buying in debt at a discount.

Those anomalies are now removed.

Only two accounting methods are authorised: the accruals basis and the mark-to-market basis. Both must conform to normal accounting practice.

Industrial and commercial companies will tend to use the accruals basis, while financial institutions will be the main users of the mark-to-market basis.

Most of the difficulties in the new legislation arise where it requires a departure from the normal accounting treatment. As a starting point, only an acceptable accruals basis of accounting will be permitted where the parties to the loan relationship are, or have been, connected at any time in the past two years.

In spite of the changes made in standing committee, the test of connection remains extremely wide. It may, in particular, have an impact on management buyouts and other venture capital transactions.

A test based on economic ownership may have been more appropriate and would not have amounted to a significant loophole in the legislation.

Some of the anti-avoidance rules can also give rise to unexpected tax charges. For example, interest paid between connected parties more than 12 months after it has accrued will not be deductible unless the lender is also taxed as the interest accrues under the new regime. There will,

therefore, be good reasons for groups to ensure that borrowers are provided with alternative finance so that interest is always paid on time or to avoid interest bearing debt altogether where a connected lender is outside the new regime.

The wider use by groups of debt issued at a discount will not solve these problems.

In fact, where the holder is connected with the borrower, some discounted securities will be even less attractive under the new regime than they were under the old legislation.

In the past, the tax advantages of deep discount securities were eliminated in a way that produced a neutral tax result.

Under the new rules, an asymmetrical tax treatment can arise: the borrower may not be entitled to a deduction for the discount on a bond held by a connected lender until it is paid, but the holder may be taxed on the discount as it accrues.

Perpetual anti-avoidance rule is that which prohibits deductions for interest payments or losses arising from transactions in debts for "unallowable purposes".

Unallowable purposes include any activities that are outside the charge to corporation tax.

We assume this provision is directed at activities outside the jurisdictional scope of UK tax, but its precise ambit is unclear.

Unallowable purposes also include the securing of a tax advantage for any person. This is defined by reference to existing anti-avoidance rules from which there is an exemption for bona fide commercial transactions and a clearance procedure.

No such exemption and no clearance procedure are to be available here.

In general, this is a welcome reform. However, vigilance will be required to avoid those aspects that represent traps for the unwary.

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Thoughtful approach needed to fill the void

A BIT of a void has opened up in the accountancy profession. It is not that there is a shortage of issues to face. If anything, the accountancy profession is faced with more challenging and serious issues than ever before — and they show no signs of lessening. The void is in the thought processes.

Until the collapse of the merger proposals for CIMA, the management accounting body, and the English ICA, there had been a presumption that the way forward for the profession as a whole was through gradual unification. A whole generation of accountants had, when they lifted their eyes from the work of the moment, been focused on larger, more centralised structures to enable the profession to continue the extraordinary growth in influence that has characterised its place in the last half of this century.

Now that agenda has evaporated. The goal of one British accounting body and the possibility of a pan-European accounting body to follow has been abandoned. It may well come about in piecemeal fashion and come together as a loose federation. But the grand design has been quietly parcelled up and stored deep in the archives.

What follows is less clear. The focus has changed abruptly. New policies need to be thought through and put into place. The cynicism of the wider membership of the profession needs to be addressed.

The profession is seen by its humbler members as having stumbled into ludicrously expensive schemes, such as regulation. They can look at their cheque stubs for evidence. A newly qualified member of the Scots ICA in 1990 paid a subscription of £125 a year. Six years later, during a period of low inflation and recession, it has risen to £200.

Compared with other subscriptions, such as golf clubs for example, it is still low. But that is not the point. Much of it is seen as disappearing into a regulatory black hole. The old joke about a yacht being a hole in the ocean into which you poured pound notes could easily be swapped with the profession's disciplinary schemes.

The accountancy bodies know that they have no choice but to keep the schemes going. Governments will allow no other option for the simple reason that they would otherwise have to pick up the tab themselves. But that is no comfort to members.

No new policies will address the basics of trying to keep members happier and better informed. But that again is more of a rolling

policy than anything which properly addresses the problem of the void. And it also holds dangers, as the collapse of the Law Society into a populist quagmire has already shown.

Similarly, new initiatives, like last week's launch of proposals to create an independent oversight board for the profession, will move the agenda. If that scheme comes to fruition, it will prove a useful and highly public shift in the way forward for the profession. But the shift is also visible in its creation. It has come about through a bottom-up rather than a top-down process.

The old political forces within the profession may be changing. Or it may simply be that the people at the top of the tree are so exhausted by all the ultimately fruitless work of the last few years that they are, for the time being, waving more enthusiastic souls through from the next tier down.

But when the processes settle down once more there will be a need to take a serious look at what needs to be done. First, that means greater resources need to be put behind technical matters. Second, the developing profession should ensure that it is agile enough to take advantage of the opportunities that in an information age, are coming at it from all sides and at alarming speeds.

If I were to say that the English ICA has taken a sensible step in setting up a working party to look at the issues, members could be excused a hollow laugh. However, this appears, for once, to be a working party in the right place and at the right time.

It is called the 2005 project, and it seeks, straightforwardly enough, to look at what the profession and the world may look like ten years hence, and what strategies should be put into place to ensure that accountants are central to the needs of that future business world. The working party will analyse the economic, social and technological forces which it expects to shape the future needs of the business world.

It will consult widely to ensure that its views on the nature of changes ahead are solidly based. It will publish its findings later this year and will then, after taking further responses into account, attempt to develop a strategy.

It also hopes that it could become a catalyst for incorporating long-term planning into the institute's thinking on a continuing basis. It is just this type of thoughtful work which will fill the void. And it is a refreshing change to the crisis management that has been prevalent in the past.



ROBERT BRUCE

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It also hopes that it could become a catalyst for incorporating long-term planning into the institute's thinking on a continuing basis. It is just this type of thoughtful work which will fill the void. And it is a refreshing change to the crisis management that has been prevalent in the past.

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Taking guard at Chelmsford

THE upheavals in the English ICA's technical directorate continue. Having issued a strategy document late last year saying that the directorate intended to be "a centre of technical excellence that is recognised as the undisputed leader in its field" it now finds that it has lost its own leader. Or to be more precise its technical director, Arthur Andersen alumnus Bruce Pickering, is leaving. As he is a keen Essex supporter and the cricket

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

season starts shortly, members seeking technical advice in the future would be well advised to drop into the county ground at Chelmsford.

Fighting shy

EVEN English chartered accountants are fighting shy of their finest traditions. In the week after the great beef scare the Leith's restaurant in the basement at the English ICA headquarters had a solution,

Dutch beef was being served with some style. But the stiff upper lip trembled. A week later what is known as "the bottom line special" had become non-British and non-beef. But had, as members found to their relief, stopped short of going the whole hog and becoming vegetarian.

Soft sell

WE are well into the danger zone for the tax self-assessment

regime. And Ernst & Young knows how to respond to a panic. "The cavalry has arrived in the form of EY/PS plus", trumpets a press release. Sadly this does not mean the firm is sending in a boarding party at the Inland Revenue's HQ just down the Thames at Somerset House to sort them out. It means they have some software to sell. Details on 0171 931 2700.

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 11 1996

Chancery Division

Failure to notify council not fatal

Regina v Marsh
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Mannell and Judge Grixson [Judgment March 28]

The failure to notify the local authority of the intended prosecution of a young person in accordance with section 5(8) or 34(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, as amended, did not render all subsequent proceedings a nullity; the subsections were directory rather than mandatory.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Dwayne Douglas Alan Marsh against his conviction, on a plea of guilty, in December 1995 at Southpark Crown Court (Mr Recorder Tudor Owen) of aggravated vehicle taking and driving while disqualified for which he was sentenced to eight months detention in a young offender institution and disqualified for driving for two years. No separate penalty was imposed for a conviction of using a vehicle without insurance.

Section 5 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 provides: "(8) It shall be duty of a person who decides to lay an information

in respect of an offence in a case where ... the offender is a young person

... approach
... fill the void



... commercial basis

... include pers

Shares maintain steady tone

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE	1995	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
100	100	Alcoholic Beverages				100	100	Alcoholic Beverages			
101	101	Banks				101	101	Banks			
102	102	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				102	102	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
103	103	Diversified Industrials				103	103	Diversified Industrials			
104	104	Engineering, Vehicles				104	104	Engineering, Vehicles			
105	105	Food Manufacturers				105	105	Food Manufacturers			
106	106	Electricity				106	106	Electricity			
107	107	Electronic & Elect				107	107	Electronic & Elect			
108	108	Healthcare				108	108	Healthcare			
109	109	Household Goods				109	109	Household Goods			
110	110	Engineering				110	110	Engineering			
111	111	Insurance				111	111	Insurance			
112	112	Chemicals				112	112	Chemicals			
113	113	Distributors				113	113	Distributors			

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE	1995	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
200	200	Leisure & Hotels				200	200	Leisure & Hotels			
201	201	Mining				201	201	Mining			
202	202	Oil & Gas				202	202	Oil & Gas			
203	203	Media				203	203	Media			
204	204	Other Financial				204	204	Other Financial			
205	205	Retailers, Food				205	205	Retailers, Food			
206	206	Retailers, General				206	206	Retailers, General			
207	207	Water				207	207	Water			
208	208	Alternative Inv Market				208	208	Alternative Inv Market			

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE	1995	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
300	300	Pharmaceuticals				300	300	Pharmaceuticals			
301	301	Printing & Paper				301	301	Printing & Paper			
302	302	Property				302	302	Property			
303	303	Telecommunications				303	303	Telecommunications			
304	304	Textiles & Apparel				304	304	Textiles & Apparel			
305	305	Transport				305	305	Transport			

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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE	1995	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
400	400	Shorts (under 5 years)				400	400	Shorts (under 5 years)			
401	401	Longs (over 15 years)				401	401	Longs (over 15 years)			
402	402	Unrated				402	402	Unrated			
403	403	Index-linked				403	403	Index-linked			
404	404	Mediums (6 to 15 years)				404	404	Mediums (6 to 15 years)			

Source: First Direct. All figures are based on the previous day's close. PE ratios are based on middle prices. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including ANNUITY TRUSTS, CANADIAN UNIT TRUSTS, and FOREIGN & GLOBAL UNIT TRUSTS.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including EQUITY TRUSTS, FIXED INCOME TRUSTS, and SPECIAL INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including MONEY MARKET TRUSTS, REAL ESTATE TRUSTS, and SPECIAL INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Advertisement for County Hall Westminister Bridge, featuring luxury 1 & 2 bed flats in the north court from \$99,000.





FILM 1
 With his latest, *Mighty Aphrodite*, Woody Allen proves that he hasn't lost his touch



FILM 2
 ... while Claude Sautet's new *Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud* is a tender study of an older man and a younger woman

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS



FILM 3
 John Travolta confirms his superstar status in *Broken Arrow*, a movie filled with explosions



FILM 4
 ... while Al Pacino is the New York mayor who makes a play for the White House in the thriller *City Hall*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Woody Allen come up with a joyous variation on familiar themes in *Mighty Aphrodite*

Old jokers can still be the best

At moments in Woody Allen's latest diversion, time stands still. How often have we been in an upmarket Manhattan apartment, watching Allen give his neuroses a shake as he battles some professional or personal crisis? He does so again in *Mighty Aphrodite*, in which he plays Lenny, a sports writer keen on boxing, jazz and all things Allenish, happy to call his newly adopted baby Sugar Ray, Thelonious or Groucho. We laugh, of course; but we also worry if Allen's persona is not growing a tad threadbare.

And how often have we seen Allen, offscreen and on, entangled with a younger woman? The pattern is repeated here. Impressed by the IQ of his bouncing boy, Lenny seeks the natural mother, uncovering no female Einstein but a dumb porn actress, a tart with a heart and the business name of Judy Cum. Luckily, Mira Sorvino, using a squeaky voice of unvarying pitch, invests the lady with a special glow and tenderness: she rejuvenates the formula.

Mighty Aphrodite
 Warner West End
 15, 91 mins
 Woody Allen's genial diversion

Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud
 Curzon Mayfair
 PG, 107 mins
 French perfection from Claude Sautet

Broken Arrow
 Odeon West End
 15, 109 mins
 John Travolta goes ballistic

City Hall
 Warner West End
 15, 112 mins
 Muddled, entertaining political thriller

romance with the cheerful tart, Lenny turns matchmaker. For her ideal mate he picks Michael Rapaport's Kevin, a cranially challenged boxer from the sticks. There is condescension in Allen's treatment of these genial dopes, but Sorvino fights back with a three-dimensional portrayal that deservedly won her the Oscar for best supporting actress.

of comedy — not Keaton, not Chaplin — can claim such a sustained run of inspiration. The film may not touch the absolute heights, but we should still watch *Mighty Aphrodite* with gratitude.

Joy continues with *Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud*, an exquisite and tender study of an older man and a younger woman from the French veteran Claude Sautet. They meet by chance in a restaurant. He (Michel Serrault) is a retired colonial judge — spruce, sardonic, accustomed to power — who views the world from under quizzical eyebrows. She (Emmanuelle Béart) is an alluring 25-year-old, married to a dull layabout, brimming with unfulfilled desires.

"Did you notice his eyes? He doesn't miss anything," a friend of Nelly's observes. Neither does Sautet: the camera catches every gaze, hesitation and flicker of misunderstanding as Arnaud edges towards intimacy with Nelly, whom he hires to sit at a computer and take dictation of his ponderous memoirs or catalogue of rare books.

These are scarcely activities to set the pulse racing. But Sautet is not interested in any high drama. For all the dance of sexual attraction, no sex is involved: the closest body contact Arnaud enjoys is a few secret strokes while the beautiful Nelly sleeps. But, given the film's intimate scope and the strength of the star performances, even a caress feels like an earthquake.

The plot also finds room for Jean-Hughes Anglade as the publisher of Arnaud's memoirs; once he meets Nelly, the couple becomes a triangle. There is the lugubrious Michael Lonsdale, sidling into the odd scene as a mysterious shadow from Arnaud's past. But the film never strays far from the courtly, bemused face of Serrault (looking eerily like the director himself) and his



"Few directors know their own little universe so well": Woody Allen with Helena Bonham Carter and baby perambulating in *Mighty Aphrodite*

radiant young companion; you cannot take your eyes off them.

Ultimately, though, the film is Sautet's triumph, crowning more than 40 years in the business as an assistant director, scriptwriter and director. Fastidious craftsmanship, so rare in this rambunctious age, goes hand in hand with wise observations of manners, society and the human heart. The result is unalloyed pleasure.

Travolta. Slater. No first names are needed on the poster for *Broken Arrow*. These guys have reached superstar status, like Mozart or Cézanne. Not that their skills are equivalent. John Travolta, coasting along on the success of *Pulp Fiction*, spends most of his time sneering at the fools trying to stop him holding America to ransom by hijacking nuclear bombs. Christian Slater, making his entry in the he-man stakes, runs around deserts, copper mines, trucks and trains, aiming to stop his old partner from the air force. "You're out of your mind," Slater observes in the final set. "Yeah, ain't it cool?" Travolta drones.

Not that *Broken Arrow* ever encourages audiences to expect cinema's finer things. The script, dreamt up by Graham Yost, writer of *Speed*, exists simply to showcase explosions. Apart from an unconvincing crash of Travolta's stealth bomber, the action scenes work well enough: as they should with a director such as John Woo, Hong Kong specialist in flying debris (see interview on page 34). But after a while one orange fireball seems much like another; and by staging so much action in an abandoned mine (the favoured hideaway of villains in 1940s serials), the chances for visual interest are drastically limited.

Broken Arrow would also be easier to swallow if the plot made at least a little sense.

Maybe the cutting-room floor holds the key, although the thought of this bumptious, brainless movie actually being longer is depressing.

To the list of past notable mayors of New York City — Jimmy Walker, Fiorello La Guardia, Ed Koch — we must now add Al Pacino. He is a Greek-American, John Pappas by name. His thick hair is swept back. Passion is his middle name, especially when he sways electors and makes a play for the White House. Most of *City Hall* appear to approve of this charismatic figure; although with four credited writers shaping the script, jarring voices sometimes poke through. For the record, the team ranges from Ken Lipper (Ed Koch's former deputy) to Scorsese collaborator Nicholas Pileggi and the esteemed Paul Schrader.

John Cusack's character Calhoun, Pappas's deputy, begins in naive adoration of his master. He shares the mayor's outrage when a shooting in Brooklyn leaves a cop and a passing black child dead. But the further the incident is probed, the more nods, winks and deals come to light. The finger of guilt is variously pointed at Mafia princes, local Democratic leader Danny Aiello and Martin Landau's saintly judge.

The thriller's mechanics work reasonably well under Harold Becker's unexceptional direction, although Bridget Fonda's investigating lawyer seems dragged in only to introduce a feminine touch. As the charismatic mayor, Pacino stays well on the right side of caricature, while Cusack keeps pace as his trusty right hand forced to face the facts of politics. The most memorable portrayal, however, comes from Danny Aiello as the party boss who massages crimes and opponents with equal finesse, and knows all of *Carousel* by heart.

from the director of *Les quatre cents coups* and *Le grand jeu*

Emmanuelle Béart
Michel Serrault
Jean-Hughes Anglade

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 WITTY, BEAUTIFULLY
 MOVING FILM*

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 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
 FILM YOU'LL SEE
 THIS YEAR*

Nelly and Mr Arnaud.
 A film by Claude Sautet

WARNER WEST END
 CURZON MAYFAIR
 15, 107 mins

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"PACINO... AT HIS SPELLBINDING BEST..."

"ONE HELLUVA FILM" ★★★★★

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CITY HALL

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THE FILMS ARTS



CHOICE 3 Tamás Vásáry conducts the Bournemouth Sinfonietta



FILM Meet John Woo, the Hollywood director who never bumps off a baddie with three bullets when 15 will do

LONDON NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN... SOME SUNNY DAY... TWELVE ANGRY MEN...

TODAY'S CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

Fundamental Continental Season... Weymouth: The Bournemouth Sinfonietta...

ELSEWHERE EDINBURGH A busy week in Scotland's capital... AFTER THE RAIN... EMILIA GALOTTI...

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts... TAP DOGS... TOMMY HIGGINS...

NEW RELEASES MADAJA... NORTH BY NORTHWEST... SMALL FACES... FRENCH TWIST... HEAT... LA WITCHAMAN... CURRENT... BRAVEHEART...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol V on release across the country

LEAVING LAS VEGAS... A LITTLE PRINCESS... MISS JULIE... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS... LEAVING LAS VEGAS...

Seduced by Mr Woo

Joe Joseph meets John Woo, director of Broken Arrow, idol of Tarantino

John Woo, who made his name directing Hong Kong action movies so slick that even Hollywood's style-sultans such as Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese swooned...



John Woo, who says that the Hong Kong director's films are violent is akin to saying coffee grows in Brazil, but a church schooling results in themes of loyalty, honour and friendship

There is always hope and there is always justice. I always like to send this message... "I never learnt any martial arts, and I've never fired a gun..."

John Woo has already cast Broken Arrow star John Travolta in his next movie, Face Off... "It was so poor, and I saw so much unfairness and crime and killings..."

Then came a movie with Chow Yun-Fat, the star of Hard Boiled and The Killer... "Broader horizons and bigger budgets were two reasons that persuaded Woo to move continents..."

He has been very moved by all that... "It's so complicated. So many people involved. So much politics, games, hundreds of meetings..."

ENTERTAINMENTS OPERA & BALLET ROYAL OPERA HOUSE... THEATRES... BEST MUSICAL... COMPANY

ALDWYCH... COMEDY... TWELVE ANGRY MEN... REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY... 'A TRIUMPH' TIMES

CHURCHILL... MISS SAIGON... CHAPTER TWO... AN IDEAL HUSBAND... DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... OLIVER... AN INSPECTOR CALLS... TAP DOGS

NATIONAL THEATRE... CATS... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS... LES MISERABLES... BLOOD BROTHERS... MICHAEAL BALL... MARIA FRIEDMAN... PASSION... SALAD DAYS

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VICTORIA PALACE... WHITEHALL... TRAINSPOTTING... WINNER... ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS... FUNNY HOME... TOMMY... PRINCE OF WALES... ELVIS... MICHAEL BALL... MARIA FRIEDMAN... PASSION... SALAD DAYS

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss new releases... BROKEN ARROW Carolyn Dawson, 18: A typical Hollywood action film...

CITY HALL Carolyn: You need a knowledge of politics to understand or even care about what is happening in the film...

Any: Although this was well acted, the plot was convoluted. I found the theme - the idealist discovering the realities of the world - quite dull...

MIGHTY APHRODITE Carolyn: A passive film which would appeal to those with an absurd sense of humour... Any: Excellent light entertainment. I loved the mythological Greek chorus commenting on the characters' antics...

RICHARD GREEN THE FAMILY SIGNED AND SEALED 1958... Laurence Stephen Lowry RA 1887 - 1976

THEATRE... Not the... WRO... me encha... PO CDs... concert tick...

Roddy Doyle's unsparring examination of a brutal marriage transcends the boundaries of class and nationhood, says Aisling Foster

More than just an accidental talent

THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS
By Roddy Doyle
Cape, £14.99

Roddy Doyle gives "accessibility" a good name. No wonder his last book was equally prominent as Booker Prize winner and at school prizewinners. His sharp, punchy style shows an understanding of how we read today. References to television, as well as to music and film, acknowledge their ever-increasing share in the storytelling of contemporary lives; and in feeling the pulse of a raw Dublin suburb, Doyle is recording a beat which can be recognised all over the world.

The Woman Who Walked Into Doors is his best work yet. The woman in the title has already appeared on television. Paula Spencer, the 39-year-old battered wife, mother and alcoholic in the four-part feature, *The Family*. The story she told there was powerful enough. Her 18-year marriage to Charlo, a handsome petty criminal, came as close to broken bone as fine acting and camerawork could get; and the physical and psychological damage inflicted on her children and herself directed a well-aimed kick

at any government preaching the delights of old-fashioned values. Yet there was a softness there, too. Despite Doyle's script, scenes of stray horses on suburban roundabouts and a community still able to exchange banter at street corners somehow dissipated the pain. It all looked "very Irish", fitting a persistent canon of the screen world which presents that race as different, inured to suffering by history or wit.

Now Doyle is in total control of his material. And the difference between the two treatments of Paula's story is as distinct as the tastes of real coffee and instant. Nor is this book particularly Irish.

Beneath its colloquial "Dub" style is a universal story of invisible women everywhere, lost in vast council wastelands on the fringes of cities. This is the tale of a little life, of childhood, motherhood and widowhood. But Paula's voice, cutting right inside her head to a clotted memory of truth and self-delusion, picking at old scars and patching up fresh wounds, grows more absorbing with every page.



Paula (centre) in Doyle's 1995 TV drama, *The Family*

The past explains this unexpectedly complicated woman. Low self-esteem came early: the memory of a bright child standing in line on her first day at senior school

was the shove which sent her tumbling downhill. Considered of low ability, she distinguished herself by "wanking a good-looking thick in the back of the classroom".

As an ex-teacher, Doyle probably understands children better than most. But he is also one of those rare male authors who can bring women alive in fiction.

Her attraction to Charlo is physical, too. "Elegance in a man is a rare thing, in an Irishman anyway... You could spend your life walking around here before you'd see a man in a pair of trousers that fit him properly." And the blurry mix of love for her children and alcoholism recurs, her plans for their future flipping over and over before the nightly bottle of vodka knocks her into oblivion.

Paula's daydreams, inspired by soap operas and Danielle Steele, shore up her defences against facing the truth about herself and her habit. Unconscious revelations betray huge gaps in understanding between parent and child, and the way old damage returns to haunt the next generation.

Television, like drink, applies a comforting cushion to muffle communication. In Charlo's first introduction to Paula's father, their mutual antipathy is channelled into an argument about *The Golden Skat*, an evening with *Baywatch* and a bottle, when Paula tries to discuss steroids with her daughter, mercilessly shows how far their imagined closeness has drifted from reality.

That is the genius of this novel: the layering of what is concrete and dream, a daily diet of romance and violence, fleeting illusions of liberation and affluence. Near the end of the book, Paula decides to

visit the place where her husband died, shot dead by the gardai after a bungled kidnap attempt and murder of a bank manager's wife. She travels to a middle-class cul-de-sac by the sea. It is reminiscent of Australian soap operas, peaceful, neat with "strange trees that made me feel that I wasn't in Ireland". She had planned to catch a glimpse of the widower, make sure he is all right, but finds fantasy easier to bear. She walks away comforted by her invention of a lonely man sitting in his nice house, destined for consolation, as yet unaware that "there was a woman in his bank that was in love with him".

Doyle does not imagine such easy solutions. Real life and people are far more complex, and their revelations here are impossible to ignore. *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors* deserves all the literary prizes it will surely get; but it should also be presented to every schoolchild as a warning against educational failure and rosy illusions that love will conquer all.

Hell is oneself and hell is alone

Bernard Levin on the worst choice

AM I A MURDERER?
By Calel Perechodnik
Westview, £18.50



The Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943, in which Perechodnik died fighting the Nazis he had been forced to serve

Am I a murderer? Very few of us would need to rack our brain for an answer. But then, very few of us have been in the hands of the Holocaust and lived to tell the tale. Even fewer have seen their entire family being shovelled into the train of no return, bound for Treblinka, while the paterfamilias watches enfolded in a uniform supplied by the Nazis.

It was not as plain as that. Calel Perechodnik, who was only 27, believed that if he enrolled as a Jewish ghetto policeman, his wife and child would have immunity from what was coming. And why should he believe that? Because he was told as much.

Calel Perechodnik lived in a town called Otwock, near Warsaw. He was a Pole and a Jew, and let no one think that the Jewish half lived happily with the other half; prewar Polish Jew-hatred was as vile as that of the Nazis, and when the German invasion began, many Poles were bewildered to find that it was not only the Jews that the Germans had come to kill.

Smiling, those innocents slept, until the *Aktion* — a combination of a slaughterhouse and an unquenchable fire. And perhaps the most terrible words spoken in this story of horror were "...

around five o'clock in the evening a written telephone message arrived at the Polish police station, asking that they reserve 50 freight cars for seven in the evening on Wednesday..."

Imagine a group of people who are frantic to get poison

with which to kill themselves; at last they have understood what has happened — or rather, not understood but at least know what is to come. Calel has known much earlier, which only makes his torment worse. He imagines the scene: "The crowd of naked, silent women, mostly with children in hand, moves forward to a huge building, where they are supposed to bathe... Silently, old women with flabby breasts, young, tall women, slender like poplars... Anko, Anko, let your beautiful eyes gaze for the last time at the heaven, at the sunset. Send me your last greeting — a benediction or a curse."

A benediction or a curse. For Calel is still asking "Am I a murderer?", and he will go on asking that question until his last day. And yet, he is a Jewish ghetto policeman, and he has tasks to carry out — for instance he has to bury one thousand bodies.

But Calel has yet another fire to walk through. "It is at that moment I stopped believing in God. I ask myself if I was not guilty of something and whether I did not pull down on myself that Tower of Babel."

And still Calel walks through fire.

The Holocaust brought out very many aspects of human wickedness and many of nobility. But perhaps the most agonising was the choice that was no choice. I read about it, and remembered it — who could forget? A Nazi was selecting Jews; the ones who could be useful were pointed down one channel, the ones who could not contribute anything were sent down the channel of death.

But one day, the line consisted of a mother and her two sturdy children; the Nazi before her smiled, waved his hand and said to the mother, "You choose".

In the annals of evil this must rank very high. But now, is Calel a murderer? As he fled from one dangerous move to another, as he found shelter in cellars, in ruins, in wardrobes, behind hoardings, he must have been haunted by the very thought of choice.

In a sense, this story is a story of choice. When he parted with his family, that was the first step. Of course, he could not guess the aftermath, but it was either God or the Devil who, amid countless thousands, saw his family actually awaiting death in Treblinka.

Is he, was he a murderer? No, a thousand times no. His family would have forgiven him at once. Indeed, there was nothing to forgive; the choice was not made for himself, and no one could see the terrible future. I hope he rests in peace. But he died in war; he was killed fighting in the Warsaw uprising.

Sense and sensibility

Ancient literature contains many references to women philosophers. Although chauvinists and sports continue to doubt the authenticity of the *Xanthippe Dialogues* (Ed. R. Scruton, 1993), nobody can deny that Theano, wife of Pythagoras, was a major contributor to pre-Socratic cosmology, or that Lashteneia, pupil of Plato, enjoyed a high reputation as a teacher of her master's ideas.

Hipparchia, sister of Metrocles and wife of Crates, is singled out for special praise by Diogenes Laertius, and it is clear to any impartial scholar that it was not Aristippus, but his daughter Arete, who founded the Cyrenaic school.

Female philosophers had a special place in Hellenistic civilisation, as propagators of a doomed pagan virtue: noteworthy are the saintly Sosipatra, lauded by Eunapius, and Hypatia, torn to pieces by a Christian mob in 5th-century Alexandria, a martyr to philosophy who should be revered in the same breath as Socrates.

This is certainly the impression given by Mme de Staël, by George Eliot, Georges Sand and Elizabeth Browning. Whatever the cause, the contribution of women to modern philosophy seems to have been, until the present century, nugatory. How rapidly things have changed can be judged from the fact that the greatest living English philosopher (Elizabeth Anscombe), and the greatest living philosopher-novelist (Iris Murdoch) are both women.

Each receives due recognition from Mary Warnock, who praises Elizabeth Anscombe in terms that would be more frequently employed had not this excellent woman publicly denounced the corruption of modern moral philosophy.

Roger Scruton

WOMEN PHILOSOPHERS
Edited by Mary Warnock
Dent, £20

most intriguing, and lead one to regret that neither of them could curtail the monstrous intellectual egoism of Sartre and Heidegger, whose lovers they nevertheless were.

Reading Hannah Arendt is a good way of reminding yourself of the sensibility lacking from contemporary academic philosophy — namely an awareness of the fate of civilisation and an openness to experience. There is not much sensibility in the rambling thoughts of Mary Midgley on animals, even less in Onora O'Neill's discussion (however cogent) of duty and virtue, and none whatsoever in Susan Haack's account of "founderism" — a theory as forbidding as its name.

And this is interesting: for if you were to ask yourself precisely what women could contribute to philosophy as women, the answer would surely be the sensibility which is so evident in Hannah Arendt, and which we also find in our greatest philosophical novelists, notably in George Eliot.

But women have entered the mainstream of philosophy only since the subject became an academic career. In order to make their mark, they have had to become either dry technicians or humourless feminists. Some would see this as confirming the male hegemony, which offers women no other choice: either you become an *ersatz* man, or you declare war on the man-made culture. A more reasonable conclusion, however, is that philosophy has now become so abstract a discipline that the distinction between the masculine and the feminine no longer applies to it.

There is no more room for a feminine philosophy than for a feminine mathematics; the attempt to "feminise" the discipline can only destroy it. Not since Xanthippe and her circle have women tried to produce a genuinely feminine philosophy, providing consolation to those who live in a disenchanting world. But, as I said, the *Xanthippe dialogues* are generally dismissed as inauthentic, even by women.

THE TIMES

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The dangerously humdrum horror of persecution

Karen Armstrong

WITCHES AND NEIGHBOURS
The Social and Cultural Context of European Witchcraft
By Robin Briggs
HarperCollins, £25



A contemporary illustration of the mass execution of "devil's disciples" in Holland, 1753

THE GREAT witch-hunts that erupted in Europe from the late 15th to the 17th century have long been a source of fascination. In all, some 40,000 people were executed for allegedly making a pact with the Devil, flying through the air at night to take part in orgiastic sabbaths and causing harm to their neighbours. From the perspective of rational modernity, it seems that Europe had entered a period of paranoid insanity, though the "witch-hunts" of the 20th century, such as the McCarthy trials, show that we are not immune to a desperate fear of hidden enemies undermining the fabric of society.

In this learned and meticulously researched book, Robin Briggs lays to rest many of the modern myths about the witch craze, without in any way diminishing its horror. He makes it clear that the old belief that the witches were the last practitioners of ancient pagan rituals is mistaken. Nor is it true that the witch-hunters were entirely consumed by the misogynistic hatred; 25 per cent of the victims were men.

It is also important to see the witch-hunts in perspective: the historians who claim that nine

million people were executed have exaggerated the numbers. Persecution was minimal in 75 per cent of Europe and the fear of witchcraft took a poor third place to the two main anxieties of the period: religious deviance and popular revolt. It is also incorrect to see such famous episodes as Salem and Loudun as typical. Usually these exaggerated scares came at the end of a period of persecution and made people sceptical about the whole phenomenon of diabolic possession.

By carefully examining individual cases, Briggs shows that the persecution was a more humdrum affair. The treatises of the professional demonologists tended to give too much emphasis to the exotic sexual element of witchcraft. In fact, witch-hunting

was chiefly confined to small villages where subsistence and survival were precarious, especially during this period of social and political change. Fear of witches had less to do with sexual repression than with envy, hunger, pain and the terror of final destitution. Briggs paints a convincing picture of the grim struggle for existence in the villages of

early modern Europe. A goodwill economy prevailed. People depended upon one another for survival. To turn away from a needy neighbour or to refuse to co-operate in ploughing arrangements were aggressive acts. They induced guilt and anger which were readily projected onto the offender. If illness or misfortune struck one of the parties

involved at a later date, it was all too easy to attribute it to *maleficium*.

Nevertheless, social causes cannot wholly account for this complex phenomenon. Briggs skillfully shows how the myths of witchcraft were linked with fundamental human experiences of pain and anxiety, often connected with the dependency of early childhood.

They were associated with motherhood, sustenance and with oedipal relations between parents and children which had never been worked out and which, in times of stress, festered into murderous hostility. It is also sadly true that persecution of a specific enemy helps to unite a community during a crisis.

This lurid and important book is also a cautionary tale. Briggs points out that we cannot afford to feel superior to our ancestors. The present fashion for the occult shows that a significant number of people in our own society are eager to flee the constraints of logic and reason. The recent cases of alleged satanic child abuse have revived many of the old myths which, in the past, led society to persecute witches, heretics, lepers and Jews. At a time when the persecution and demonisation of enemies is on the increase in Europe, which is once again in the grip of economic, political and social crises, the scenario described by Briggs has a sinister relevance.

Karen Armstrong's *A History of Jerusalem* will be published by HarperCollins in July

Revival of the bestial bard

Soviet

0181 852 4575

Revival of the bestial bard

The title of this entertaining study, the first of Moore for 60 years, comes from a letter to his mother. "I was born, I live, I shall die a peculiar man," he wrote. "I couldn't be commonplace, were I to try."

Tony Gray believes that his subject — "Misunderstood Child, Absentee Landlord, Eccentric Author, Aspiring Lecturer and Prose Stylist" — was not exaggerating. He also feels a certain affinity with him — "Like Moore, I think Ireland is a fatal disease from which both of us were lucky enough to escape for the greater part of our lives."

Moore escaped initially to Paris. He badly wanted to be a painter, although as he took a valet with him he was not an altogether typical denizen of the Latin Quarter.

Back in London, success as a writer proved elusive. A poem about a young man's love for a beautiful corpse ("Poor breasts! Whose nipples sing alone have fed! Poor desecrated head!") caused one reviewer to dub him "The Bestial Bard" and recommended he be "whipped at the cart's tail."

His first novel, *A Modern Lover*, published in 1883, was

Ian McIntyre

A PECULIAR MAN
A Life of George Moore
By Tony Gray
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

banned by the circulating libraries as unsuitable for young ladies. When it was followed, two years later, by *A Mummer's Wife*, William Archer told Bernard Shaw he had been reading "a most wonderful Naturalistic book" by a new writer. Shaw, hearing the author's name, was incredulous. "Nonsense," he said. "I know George Moore. He couldn't possibly write a real book."

He also invited the mockery of Oscar Wilde: "Moore took seven years to discover grammar, and then discovered the paragraph."

If the learning process was painfully slow, it was impressively thorough. He devoured modern French and English literature, Gray writes, "with single-minded ferocity." Within a decade he had emerged not only a popular novelist but also as a subtle and imaginative stylist.

He was a penetrating critic, too. "Why does he always avoid decisive action?" (this of Henry James). "Mr James's people live in a calm, sad and very polite twilight of volition." His admiration for Stevenson was qualified by a perceptive paradox: "He never wrote a line that failed to delight me; but he never wrote a book." Proust, he told Nancy Cunard, wrote like a man "trying to plough a field with a pair of knitting needles."

In middle life he was drawn back to his roots in Ireland. His Dublin neighbours found him tiresome; one hired an Italian organ-grinder to play beneath his windows when he was writing.

Yeats acknowledged that it would not have been possible to establish the Irish National Theatre without Moore's knowledge of the stage, but his contribution to the Irish literary revival was uneven. Gray describes him crawling into barrow graves with the poet George Russell (known as AE)



An ambivalent Irishman: Max Beerbohm's cartoon of W. B. Yeats introducing Moore to the fairy queen

during a Hulot-esque bicycling excursion to the Boyne valley. AE was confident that the island's old pagan gods would manifest themselves, a happy epiphany denied them by the untimely arrival of two Presbyterian ministers.

Moore's suggestion that *The Arabian Nights* should be translated into Irish led to accusations that he wished an indecent book to be put in the hands of the peasantry, and eventually he became disillusioned. "The Irish are a cantankerous, hateful race," he decided. "Only as politicians, pugilists, and priests have they succeeded, with here and there a successful lawyer."

And the occasional writer, of course. "Yeats, standing lost in meditation before a congregation of white swans assembled on the lake, looking himself in his old cloak like a huge umbrella left behind by some picnic party." Moore did not achieve much with brush and palette in his Paris years, but those long evenings at Les Nouvelles Athenes, the café that was the haunt of Manet and Degas and Pissarro, had not been wasted. In the mature work — *Hail and Farewell*, *The Brook Kerih*, *Heloise and Absalon* — it is his painter's eye which brings the printed page alive.

Tony Gray believes that his book will lead to a general revival of interest in Moore's work. He is a fluent and persuasive advocate.

Alexander Chancellor on the complex charms of Florence

Room for another view

FLORENCE
A Portrait
By Michael Levey
Cape, £25

Florence is not everybody's taste. In fact, it is not really to mine. There is an air of dourness and melancholy about it. It is cramped and overbearing. Those massive medieval-Renaissance palaces, with their heavy rustication and thickly grained ground floor windows, look grim and joyless. The streets are too narrow or too wide; the squares too large or too small. It is not a comfortable city to visit. Yet people do visit it in terrifying numbers. You can hardly walk in it, let alone park in it. Who would not rather be in Rome or Venice — or even Milan — than in this forbidding, overcrowded place?

These are thoughts I would probably not have dared express before reading Sir Michael Levey's book. But this lover of the city — and great authority on it — reveals that he is not blind to the limits of its appeal. People do not come to Florence "for 'fun' or for a magnificent urban spectacle," he says; and if any do, "they will, in both cases, be disappointed." They come as pilgrims, "impelled by belief in, or acceptance of, a cultural faith as intense and ardent as any religious one." "Almost too well do they know that they have come to encounter a unique, narrow but tremendous experience, the explosion of art and culture which we call the Renaissance and which detonated first or most patently in Florence."

Sir Michael does not undervalue the great explosion of artistic genius which happened in Florence in the early 15th century, when Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Uccello and others suddenly leapt upon the stage, but he questions some of the myths which the Victorians generated in their excitement at discovering it. The Renaissance, he points out, was not a purely Florentine or even Italian phenomenon, but Europe-

wide. While 15th-century Florence had a good claim to be the cultural capital of Europe, the claim was open to challenge — especially by Bruges, in the kingdom of Burgundy, which was supreme in "modern" music and had in Jan van Eyck one of the greatest painters of the age.



Relief by Giambologna, commissioned by Francesco di Medici (d. 1587) who opened the Uffizi as a museum

While much has been made since of the Renaissance artists' "rediscovery" of ancient Rome and Greece, the author says the connection wouldn't have occurred to people at the time. It was their fresh naturalism, not their homage to the past, which astonished. "The culmination of that *verismo* movement is Donatello's polychrome wooden statue of St Mary Magdalene, which offends nearly all the canons, real or supposed, of classical antique sculpture, but is nevertheless typical of 15th-century Florentine ideals," he writes.

Sir Michael does not remotely seek to denigrate the great artistic flowering of 15th and 16th-century Florence, which is all the more remarkable for having mostly taken place against a background of civil

war, plague, fire, famine and frantic political upheaval, but he wishes that the modern hordes of cultural pilgrims who make the city so intolerable today would not drool over it to the exclusion of all else. Not only did the period produce some poor art as well as good (and I am glad to find Sir Michael saying that "the palaces are more monotonous and restricted in their character and beauty than is often recognised"); but good art didn't die with Michelangelo, either.

There is, the author insists, a "second" Florence which is quite unfairly neglected. "There is a widespread assumption — encouraged by the bias of most of the writing in English at least — that the best days of Florence were over by 1600. Whatever followed has to be, is sometimes openly treated as, inferior artistry, as in other ways," he writes. But, says Sir Michael, the Medici dynasty continued to sponsor architecture, painting, and sculpture of high quality right up to its extinction in 1737.

The examples he gives in this beautifully illustrated book encourage the reader to believe him. The church of San Gaetano of 1648, which he calls "the most cogent and the most complete answer to any lingering questions about whether post-Renaissance Florence produced any worthwhile architecture," does indeed look marvellous and has the added advantage over most Renaissance churches of actually having a completed facade. Above all, it is cheerful and exuberant.

It is just one of several mouth-watering examples Sir Michael gives of "great works of art, of architecture and sculpture especially, that are unremembered by hordes of people, and unillustrated and unpraised, when indeed even mentioned, in the more popular type of guidebook." I will make a bee-line to them on my next visit.

Derwent May on the latest volume of reticent autobiography from one of our finest travel writers

Everything but the wife

THE WORLD,
THE WORLD
By Norman Lewis
Cape, £18.99

This must be one of the weirdest chapters of autobiography ever written. The travel writer, Norman Lewis, who keeps his eye on the world with such sharpness and tenacity, has always been sparing with information about himself — even in *Who's Who* he fails to give his date of birth — and here we get from the outbreak of the Second World War, through travels in Guatemala, Vietnam, Thailand, Spain and Cuba and an interlude in an Essex paragonage, up to a recent visit to India, with practically no dates being provided at all.

We learn hardly any more about his wives — and it is hardly surprising. For whenever he goes, drama clings to him. He cannot get on a plane without finding an executioner on it, going out to garrote someone. On a flight to Saigon, he encounters a French police officer, then meets at dinner the policeman's Vietnamese mistress, "tinkling softly with concealed jewellery as she moved about", and her friend, Chu

Indian with a vermilion kilt and a cage of Coca-Cola cans on his back as he does to Ernestina, and after this she finally vanishes from the story. During the Essex interlude there is a passing mention of another wife ("an old friend, Lesley") and some children ("born within yards of a river, my children reached their teens without sighting a frog"), but they fade from the scene even more rapidly.

What interests Norman Lewis is his travels — and it is hardly surprising. For wherever he goes, drama clings to him. He cannot get on a plane without finding an executioner on it, going out to garrote someone. On a flight to Saigon, he encounters a French police officer, then meets at dinner the policeman's Vietnamese mistress, "tinkling softly with concealed jewellery as she moved about", and her friend, Chu

Ti, a girl who has been fighting for the rebels and by contrast wears country cottons and dogs.

Chu Ti has now become a *fidèle ardente* of the bizarre new religion of Cao-Dai ("The Universal Religion of the Age of Improved Transport"), and Lewis is able to go with her to watch a cardinal of the new faith ("with sprouting wings") come ashore in a junk adorned with plastic monkeys on the masts and a giant portrait of his chief saint, Victor Hugo. A bishop in a winged hat also leaps from the boat and tells Chu Ti she has been promoted. Lewis is blessed with such curiosity and openness that adventures like this happen to him on almost every page.

But as it proceeds his autobiography meets another difficulty. Many of his wanderings and investigations have already been written up in remarkable books, and he does not want to repeat himself. At one point after the war he went to live in a remote fishing village in Spain. His book about that, *Voices of the Old Sea*, is one of the most beautiful and sensitive accounts of a pass-

ing way of life that I have ever read. His characters slowly unfurl to the reader's understanding as if by a process of nature, the moods of sea and sky exquisitely evoked, and Lewis as usual hardly there except as a fine register of it all.

Here he gives a little more information about how he came to be in the village, with some characteristic touches such as the way he added up prices for the unarithmetical fishermen, but the story has really been told already. His chapter about his remarkable



Lewis: admired by Greene

book on the Mafia, *The Honoured Society*, is even slighter — scarcely more than a footnote. We get an amusing glimpse of Lewis's publisher, Jonathan Cape, who never travelled further than Eastbourne and never talked about anything else — and a depressing glimpse of Hemingway in his farmhouse in Cuba, "pulled down by the wolves of weakness and old age".

A theme, though, begins to emerge in the latter part of the book. When he goes back to Farol, the Spanish village by the sea, Lewis finds it has disappeared, obliterated by tourist hotels. In Vietnam, he watches fishermen intently guiding tiny fish into their nets in the Black River as the French pour shells into the matted jungle above them. The destruction of ancient ways of life, usually by barbarous means, starts to preoccupy him.

In Guatemala, which he says is "ruled by 14 rich families", he sees "a vast tragedy" spreading through the mountains as the Indian villagers who had been calling for the return of their

ancestral lands are "punished" and driven into "voluntary collaboration centres". In Brazil he sees something of the "near-annihilation of the native races" in the late Sixties, and tells some stories of terrible cruelty, sometimes even carried out with the collaboration of American fundamentalist missionaries. In fact his reports on Brazil in *The Sunday Times* led to the foundation of the organisation Survival International.

He has come to believe in the innocence of the American Indians, and is "persicently and increasingly of the opinion that Voltaire was right" with his theory of the Noble Savage. In the last chapter he tells a sympathetic young Brahmin how as a boy in Wales he was always crossing the mountains looking for a wilder valley, and in the closing sentences of the book he confides what drives him now: "I'm looking for the people who have always been there, and belong to the places where they live. The others I do not wish to see." *The World, The World* may not be Lewis's best book — but everyone who has felt with Graham Greene, that he is "one of the best writers of our century" will undoubtedly want to read it.

Soviet saga without soul

Natasha Fairweather
THE ODESSANS
By Irina Ratushinskaya
Translated by Geoffrey Smith
Sceptre, £16.99



Ratushinskaya: without struggle, her muse is elusive

publishers as a Russian *Wild Swans*, the novel tells the history of early 20th-century Russia and Ukraine through the lives of three generations of three families from Odessa. It is an ambitious undertaking even for this brave Odessan.

Odessa has always been different from other cities in the region. A free port on the Black Sea, built on the wealth of traders and smugglers from all over the world, it was always more cosmopolitan and culturally varied than other places. And it is this spirit of freedom and southern insouciance which Ratushinskaya has tried to capture against the background of the terrible political excesses of the period. *The Odessans* begins in 1905, as it ends 40 years later.

with bloodshed and war. The Russians are facing humiliating defeat in the war with Japan, revolution is brewing and, just outside Odessa harbour, the sailors on the battleship *Potemkin* have mutinied. Meanwhile, the Petrov children, scions of a noble Russian family, have just met the Teslenkos, a family of Polish-Ukrainian extraction, and the Jewish Geibers, whose family were ruined in the pogroms. It proves to be a fateful meeting for, through all the hardship which is to afflict Odessa and the Soviet

Union, these three families remain intimately connected. And here lies the novel's weakness. Having created an unwieldy cast of characters buffeted all over Europe by political events, Ratushinskaya is forced to rely on coincidence and fortuitous encounters to hold her narrative together. Credible characterisation and good writing are abandoned as the action gallops from war to civil war and back again. Take, for example, the fate of Vladimir Teslenko, a medical orderly serving on the Polish

front in 1915. In the space of 22 pages Viadek meets and parts with his best friend Pavel Petrov, then runs into Pavel's sister Zina, whom he has always loved. Viadek marries her, adopts an orphan, and watches Zina die of typhus, before he himself is abandoned in Poland by the author and is only once heard of again. Cliches and schmaltzy love scenes thrive under this kind of narrative stress.

RATUSHINSKAYA has also been ill-served by her translator who, making no attempt at consistency of style, puts contemporary slang ("hunky dory", "bonking", "faffing around") into the mouths of turn-of-the-century characters, yet simultaneously peppers the text with anachronisms such as "yonder" and "of yore". Muscovites responded apathetically to the publication of the Russian edition of *The Odessans* last month. Perhaps they sensed that this readable, but unremarkable novel lacked that quality for which Ratushinskaya was previously famed: soul.

IN RUTH PADEL'S new book, *Fusewire* (Chatto, £6.99), a series of love poems to an Irish Republican are spliced together with historical poems on the colonisation of Ireland. The book has a thrillerish atmosphere, and the poems make a point of filtering in the sex and politics of ordinary life. Even Radio 3 here, offers "love songs from Azerbaijan".

The style is to throw words at things and hope they stick. The sea is "the bluest eye, / a mess of cobalt" — a nod at Toni Morrison's novel and the name of an element — while an erotic sensation is likened to "As if I'd never known red / Hi-volt chillies / doing press-ups in a haybag of velvet". The prevailing mood is "a mad / software breathlessness", the ardour of address sometimes flattering, more often uncomfortable to a male reader. The excitement of these short lines, hot imagery and frequent one-word sentences is palpable, but the poems, designed for instability, effectiveness rather than impress. "How could all that disappear?" Padel asks at one point. The wisdom is you have to be sober to play drunk. Charles Boyle, in *Paleface* (Faber, £6.99), writes about life and London — quite

Simple things are best

POETRY

possibly he is tired of both with the perspective of an outsider and the understanding of an insider. There is a continual odd accent to things, harnessed to a command of idiom that seems paradoxically un-English: "a lingering pink over Acton / that seems reluctant to call it a day." A long poem called *Velero* takes a mordant anthropologist's eye view of the English: "Their code of justice / roughly translates: a tooth / for a camelhair coat, / an eye for a Toyota." The best poems in *Paleface* are sharp and skewed takes on our haplessly systematic mongrel existence. W. S. Graham died ten years ago. *Selected Poems* (Faber, £9.99) is the third book of his poems to appear posthumously. I never heard him read, and wish I had; there is a

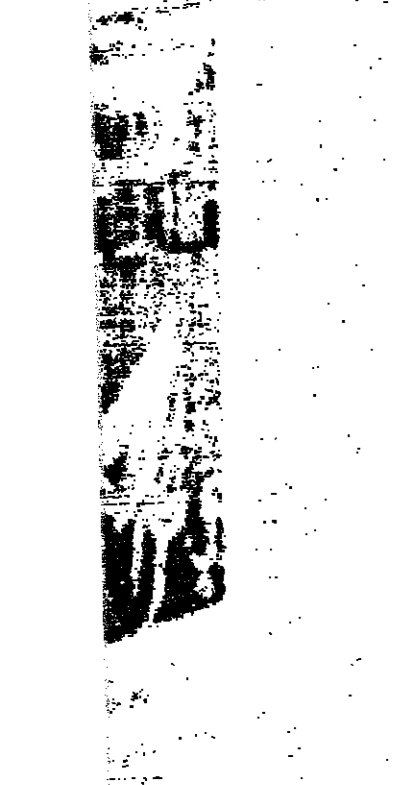
tremendously touching vocal quality in his poems. The words keep insisting on being no more than themselves, but what looks like a voguish intellectual gambit is actually nothing of the sort, and more a childlike scrupulousness. It is more a type of giving than a type of denial. "The words are mine," he writes, "the thoughts are all / Yours as they occur behind / The bat of your vast unseen eyes." But it is more lasting than bronze, as the poet said.

Graham lived most of his life in Cornwall and his poems *To Roger Hilton's Watch*, *The Thermal Stairs* (to Peter Lanyon) or *Dear Bryan Winter* both commemorate and recall his friends among the Cornish naive, or abstract painters. It is rare to find anything as nakedly affecting as *Dear Bryan Winter*. "This is only a note / To say how sorry I am / You died." He remembers a visit to London and a meeting with Eliot, and ends with sumptuous humility and oddity: "Between the big buildings / I sat like a flea crouched / In the stopped works of a watch." He should be read — they don't make them like him any more. MICHAEL HOFMANN

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A leading Israeli manufacturer of envelopes, cash register roles and continuous stationary is looking for an agent distributor who is experienced in selling to Government Departments, Direct Mail Organisations, Billing Companies and Industry.

Applicants should fax a full resume to MR Ab Wittenburg (Agent for Germany) on 0049 5052 1387. (fax) All replies by 15th April

Opportunities in Global Investment Banking

HR Managers

City

Our client is a leading UK based global investment bank with exceptional trading capability and investment banking flair, committed to recruiting and developing individuals of the highest calibre.

This business focused Human Resources function plays a major role in supporting the firm in all aspects of HR management and is in the process of building an innovative, high profile team that will drive change and add value...

All roles are generalist, advising on issues such as recruitment, training and development, employee relations, counselling, compensation, succession planning and performance management...

You will have a minimum of five years' HR experience gained within the business or support areas of a City institution. Individuals from progressive corporate or professional environments will also be considered...

You must also possess the intellect and impact needed to apply your abilities in a highly demanding environment where timely business-focused solutions are imperative. Strong interpersonal skills, credibility and a high level of commitment are pre-requisites.

These positions offer excellent career and reward opportunities for high calibre individuals.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed CV to Paul Lewis at BBM Selection 76 Watling Street London EC4M 9BJ or call him on 0171-248 3653. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

76, Watling Street, London EC4M 9BJ



Tel: 0171-248 3653 Fax: 0171-248 2814

Cristie Sales Manager (Director Designate)

to £50,000 (c.£80,000 OTE) Plus excellent benefits package

IT Peripherals

Cristie is Britain's leading manufacturer of high quality PC data storage products with an unsurpassed reputation for delivering reliable back-up solutions into business-critical corporate network environments...

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will be responsible for managing and developing the Sales Team to achieve Cristie's business objectives, and personally contribute towards the company's strategic direction.

With a strong track record of corporate sales plus experience and understanding of the PC channels, you will possess excellent skills in leadership and business management, probably supported by an HND or degree level qualification...

Please forward your full CV and covering letter to Cristie's retained management recruitment consultant, Kevin Lamb at Kestrel Network Sciences, Talbot House, High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7AQ Tel: 01344 762616 Fax: 01344 762573 E-mail: 100815.1740@compuserve.com



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BETA Systems Software Limited Sales Account Manager

BETA Systems Software Limited Sales Account Manager

We offer a competitive salary with an attractive benefits package. Working for a profitable, expanding UK subsidiary of a German parent company, you will have full responsibility for the entire sales approach in a designated vertical market...

Please send your CV to: Mrs Judith L. Ferguson-Bell Administration Manager BETA Systems Software Limited Highlands House, Basingstoke Road Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1NT Tel: (01734) 885175

Pitney Bowes Finance PLC

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT London Bridge c£35,000 + Bonus + Car + Benefits

Pitney Bowes Finance PLC, a highly successful leading subsidiary of the multi-national Pitney Bowes Corporation and core Company in the European Financial Services group with an impressive record of European expansion, has an outstanding opportunity for a post-graduate with sound project management experience.

Reporting to the Business Development Manager you will have a major influence on the growth of the Company, responsible for managing the expansion of the Group into new European countries of operation. Responsibilities will include analysing and evaluating markets to assess the feasibility and viability of new leasing businesses...

In addition to the business development responsibilities, you will be a key player in an on-going project to build a dynamic framework for further profitable growth within this customer focused organisation. Responsibilities will include contributing to re-engineering solutions in conjunction with consultants and other team members, involving other employees for specialist advice and briefing senior management on project progress.

Applications are invited from post-graduates who are fluent in English and at least one other major European language and who preferably, have been exposed to more than one European business environment. Candidates must demonstrate exceptional interpersonal skills, the ability to present effectively at senior management level and persuasiveness in their communication.

A very attractive package including company car and other benefits are offered with this position.

Interested applicants should forward their Curriculum Vitae (including details of current salary and benefits) to Monica Whitefield, Human Resources Manager, Pitney Bowes Finance PLC, New City Court, 20 St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RS. The closing date for applications is Monday 22 April 1996.

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This respected group of newspapers are offering a challenging opportunity for both experienced and trainee telephone sales canvassers based at our London offices.

We require smart and articulate salespeople who can sell to deadline and relish working in a hectic and pressurised environment.

Trainee Telephone Sales Canvassers circa £12,000 (+bonus) OTE £15,000

You will be mature, professional and enthusiastic, be able to communicate effectively over the telephone, educated to 'A' level standard, be numerate and have basic keyboard skills and most importantly, be keen to pursue a career in telephone sales.

Experienced Telephone Sales Executives circa £14,000 (+bonus) OTE £19,000

With all the qualities above and at least 2 years media sales experience on either a national, local or trade press publication, this candidate will be looking for career advancement and good earning potential coupled with the prestige of working for 2 high profile newspapers.

In return, News International offers an excellent package which includes BUPA, contributory pension, subsidised staff restaurant, gymnasium and regular lucrative incentive schemes.

If you feel you have these qualifications, call us on Tuesday 9th April.

Marianne McCreedy, Advertising Sales Controller, News Group Newspapers Limited, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 6QA. Tel: 0171-680 8230 Fax: 0171-782 7941

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c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

Managers Sought For Expanding European Operations

Fair, Isaac is the world's leading supplier of decision support models and software to the retail, finance and insurance industries. The company has European offices in Birmingham, Paris and Wiesbaden. To support the continuing growth of its European operations we now require two further professionals to play key roles in developing the Company's success.

Software Products Manager This role will have the responsibility for providing pre and post sales support, project management, consultancy and client training for Fair, Isaac's Application Screening Software products. Relevant experience, preferably in the finance industry, will include a minimum of 8 years in the software industry, pre-sales and IBM mainframe CICS and COBOL to project manager level.

Credit Scoring Project Manager Responsible for the development, leadership and management of analytical scoring projects for both UK and European customers. Fair, Isaac's client list includes many of Europe's leading financial institutions and thus you will be expected to provide innovative solutions to the customer's needs as well as consulting on the live implementation and monitoring of scoring models.

You will be a respected specialist in the development and use of scoring and must have extensive practical experience of scoring gained across a wide range of products. You will be PC literate and preferably proficient in SAS. Experience of staff management is desirable.

Ideal candidates for both positions will be self-motivated, achievement oriented individuals who feel comfortable in client facing situations and have had a strong academic record. Fluency in one or more other European Language will be a definite asset. The candidates will be based in our Birmingham office and will be expected to travel to client sites as required.

We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefits package and company car.

For confidential consideration, send your CV to: Liz Moore, Fair, Isaac International, Concorde House, Trinity Park, Birmingham B37 7ES.

Fair Isaac

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REQUIRED An INTERIOR ARCHITECT for Middle East area around 40 years old with at least 10 years experience in wood work, upholstery, metal work, ceramics and craft. CV to be sent to: 30 Allen Way, London, W3 0PF

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Southern Home Counties

c. £25,000 + Exceptional Benefits



This leading household name is a fast, dynamic business with a committed team that is constantly challenged and motivated to deliver results. It rewards individuals who take early responsibility and who care for their clients in what is an extremely customer focused organisation designed to pursue excellence in all its activities.

Continued expansion is an integral part of the company's strategy and key to achieving success is the recruitment of high calibre Account Managers to spearhead initiatives as outlined:

- Maximise revenue generation from existing clients, ensuring that high levels of customer satisfaction are achieved.
- Review and develop client strategies and devise effective marketing plans.
- Take ownership of personal targets in ensuring new business accounts are developed and maintained.
- Co-ordinate all internal support to deliver specific client programmes covering marketing and systems.

Candidate requirements for these roles are clear; you will want to work in an environment where striving for excellence is common practice and delivering the highest quality of service is

paramount. You will be graduate calibre, highly ambitious, assertive but considerate, and keen to develop your sales and marketing career to date with a leading branded name. As a successful candidate who can meet this criteria, you will see your career develop in a business that prides itself on rewarding success through achievement.

Interested candidates should write promptly to Mark Rowley or Charles Austin at Herst Austin Rowley, 30 St. George Street, London W1R 9FA, enclosing a full Curriculum Vitae and quoting reference HAR112. E-mail: har@globalnet.co.uk.

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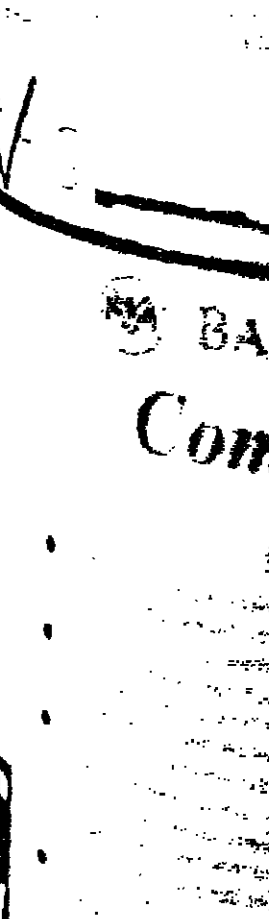
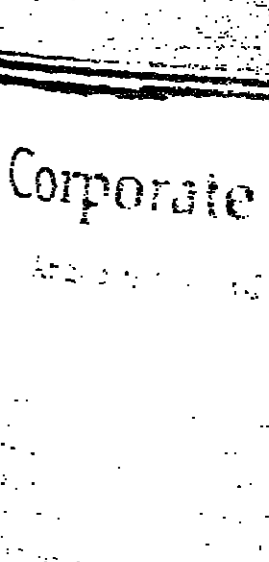
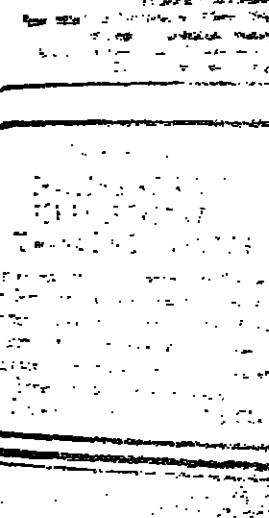
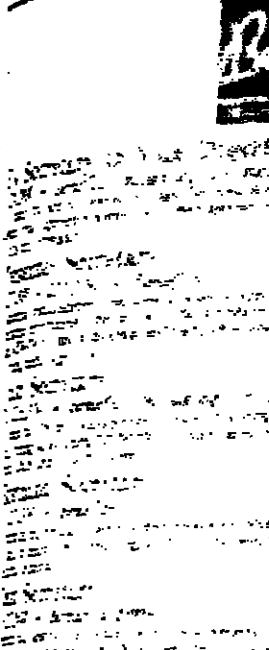
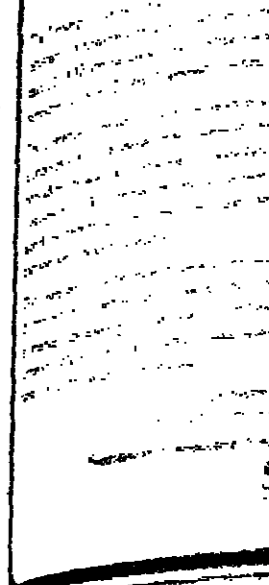
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RETAIL MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Royal Collection Enterprises, the trading subsidiary of the Royal Collection Trust, manages all aspects of public access to Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. The retail section is expanding rapidly and two key appointments are now required.

Product Manager £22,500
An experienced retail buyer, with proven product development and negotiating skills, is required to carry the range forward and manage the development of new products. Experience in developing high-quality reproductions from original objects and the transference of fine art images to commercial product would be a considerable advantage. This is initially a fixed-term appointment to 31st December 1998, with the possibility of an extension.

Merchandiser c.£18,000
A Merchandiser is required to plan and manage the stock ledger and gross margin, specifically using a computerised Open To Buy. A range of merchandise management skills, with experience gained in a multiple or department store environment, is essential for this post. This is a permanent position.

Applicants for both positions should be computer literate, well-presented and confident in dealing with senior management. A full C.V. and covering letter, explaining the contribution you would make to our retail business, should be sent to:
The Retail Manager, Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd., St James's Palace, London SW1A 1JR.
The closing date for applications is Friday, 26th April 1996.

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SALES DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

c£35K package including quality car

'Inertia, stagnation and the failure to recognise change spell disaster for any business, invariably leading to declining standards and profitability.'

Taking stock of our business, we recognised the dangers, acted against them by setting new goals and as a result have achieved rapid year on year growth.

Austin Benn, part of The Corporate Services Group PLC, one of the leading Contract Labour and Training Groups in the U.K. are pursuing a strategy which will ensure unprecedented achievements in 1996 and beyond.

To this end we are seeking to recruit highly motivated Sales Development Managers who will spearhead the company's drive for new business.

Leading a team of dedicated Sales Professionals, you will be aged between 28 and 35, be educated to degree standard, will possess a strong sales background and have a proven track record in team building and development. In addition, you will be hungry to contribute to our on-going success, thereby guaranteeing your own.

FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW CALL MARTIN FORRY NOW ON 0161 877 3313

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Manage all aspects of a lively sales/customer service team for a leading producer of video and CD based learning resources.

Play a central role, as part of the management team, in determining the strategic direction of this small, dynamic, company.

We're embracing changes, both internal and in the marketplace, so you'll need energy, enthusiasm, commitment, leadership qualities - and a sense of fun.

At least 2 years' previous sales management experience is essential, covering both telesales and key account development.

Ready for this opportunity? Send your c.v. with salary details to:
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MELROSE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Up to £45K including Performance bonus. Two year contract

The new 'Core' Chamber for the East London region has been created with local business and industry support, sponsored by London East TEC and has the backing of ABCB and DTI. There are some 25,000 businesses in the area which covers the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering. The Chamber seeks a forward-looking Chief Executive to put it on a sound foundation for the future.

THE JOB - PRIORITY TASKS

- recruit members to the new Chamber
- develop new services for the benefit of members
- build on and strengthen relationships with local business organisations
- manage the resources of the new Chamber

THE PERSON

- strong entrepreneurial and selling skills
- energetic and hands-on
- understanding of business needs, especially small to medium size enterprises
- excellent communicator - verbal and written
- proven experience as a general manager

Experience and knowledge of Chambers is an advantage, but not essential.

For an application form and further details, please contact Marie Brooks, East London Chamber of Commerce Ltd, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, London E1 1EE or call 0171 377 8874 (Answerphone). Completed application forms should be returned by Friday 3rd May 1996.

THE CORE CHAMBER
East London Chamber of Commerce

Carluccio's, the renowned Italian Food company, requires a

Wholesale Administrator

with special responsibility to assist in product development. We are looking for an organised, numerate and self-motivated person. You must speak Italian a *livello di madrelingua* and your spoken English must also be perfect. A background in a computerised wholesale or buying office environment would be advantageous.

CV with current/last salary to:
Bob Hamilton, Carluccio's Ltd, 28A Neal Street, London WC2H 9PS.

Manager Required

Position Vacant Now
£16,000 - £20,000

UK division of US public company seeks candidates for management position based in the London area. Must possess good command of the English language, both oral and written, a second language preferably German or Dutch will provide additional opportunities for promotion. Must be self motivated and have proven management experience. Possesses a degree or similar formal qualification. You must have a full clean driving licence, strong organisational skills and a dedication to customer service. Rapid expansion along with company training programme will provide a very promotional and bonus commission opportunities. Must be open to relocation in future. Please send your CV with salary history to:

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Developing rapidly expanding, following highly successful fourth year of trading, requires Graduate or degree of second academic standard, to be trained to the highest possible standards with a view of full time professional within 12 months. For further details, call:
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Import/Export Manager
Manager required for UK company specialising in the export of goods to and from the UK and Korea. Applicants must have management experience, knowledge of Korea or UK business, speak and write fluent Korean, and be able to work under pressure to meet tight deadlines.
Salary £20,000 +
Send CV to Mrs K B Park by fax on 0181 296 9813

Human Resource Management

Our multinational client is a world leader in the frag sector with an enviable brand image and market share. Its commitment to excellence is unrivalled and reflects a belief that high quality, motivated people are the key to sustained success. The company is currently undergoing a planned process of dynamic organisational change and restructuring and requires two high calibre Human Resource Management professionals. If you have a proven track record of results oriented innovation these roles offer a unique opportunity to help shape the organisation's future.

UK Personnel Manager
N.W. ENGLAND
SALARY UP TO £40,000 + CAR + BENEFITS + RELOCATION PACKAGE

Responsible for a team of eight, the UK Personnel Manager will provide a high quality and comprehensive HR service to the Sales and Marketing functions as well as two manufacturing sites. Specific areas in which delivery is essential are:

- Recruitment, including some pan European activity
- Developing IR Strategy in liaison with line management
- Management of UK salary policy
- UK Pensions Administration
- Operation of job evaluation system
- Administration of HQ staff
- Contract management in the areas of Catering, Security and Facilities
- Providing expert advice to management on all aspects of HR

Please quote Ref: JD 50/24

Personnel and Training Manager
NORTH WALES
SALARY £35,000 + CAR + BENEFITS + RELOCATION PACKAGE

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Personnel and Training Manager has a team of four HR professionals and is responsible for the delivery of a full personnel and training service to the manufacturing site. Areas of responsibility include:

- Recruitment of salaried and hourly paid staff
- Delivery of a full training service for operators, craft and salaried staff
- IR negotiations and support to site management
- Employee support including counselling and retirement preparation etc
- HR policy interpretation and advice to management
- Provision of a personnel administration service
- Management of contract for security and catering
- Company community involvement

Please quote Ref: JD 50/25

Please send full CV stating salary and quoting the appropriate reference to Cygnus Consulting Ltd, St Clements House, 27 Clements Lane, London EC4N 7AP.

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CONSULTANTS

with IT or Finance industry experience, particularly Project Managers, Business Analysts, ERP, Process Design and Documentation skills, required for contract work. CVs to: Consultant Recruitment, 50 Spycroft Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1EX. Tel: 0438 722222.

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To £25k Office Manager - London A New International Operations Base

The Entergy Corporation, one of the largest quoted public utilities companies in the USA with assets of around \$23b and 12,000 employees, provides electric power and services to over 2.3m domestic retail customers.

You will be one of the first appointed to this compact team and will enjoy a wide ranging work scope, covering supervision of office staff, day to day financial duties, insurance, administration, personnel, facilities, provision of clerical and secretarial back up and all other related matters.

Ideally, you have managed a start up scenario and have directly relevant experience in running a busy, international operations base. Skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint are particularly advantageous.

This is a ground floor opportunity to make an early and direct impact on a new area of expansion and the remuneration package will reflect the importance of this role.

Interviews are to take place in London in the near future. In complete confidence, please write with CV as soon as possible to:

Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1V 3EA.

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The Company
Based in attractive offices in Victoria, PJR is a small consultancy specialising in Organisation Development.

Essential Requirements

- Accurate, efficient, calm under pressure and flexible
- Outgoing, articulate and excellent telephone manner, confident
- Experienced and competent in complex diary management
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- Highly skilled in word processing, presentation, use of spreadsheets and graphics packages.
- Confident dealing with people at the most senior level

Desirable

- Previous consulting (or similar) experience
- Experience of latest version of AppleMac/Microsoft Office

Salary £17,500 - £21,000. Non-smoker preferred. No agencies please.
Requests for application forms to PJR Limited, 29 Carisbrooke Place, London SW1E 6DY
Fax: 0171 680 8543
Closing date: 24 April 1996
Please do not send CVs, application letters at this stage.

DMB&B

is a leading International Communications Group, comprising Advertising, Marketing, Media Planning/Buying and PR. We are currently looking for two secretaries to work at senior levels, one in our Creative Department and the other in our International Division. Our ideal candidates for these positions should be excellent administrators with fast and accurate WP skills (Lotus Smart Suite preferable) and a sound advertising background.

If you have a cheerful lively personality, can remain calm under pressure and if you are willing to work long hours when required, we should be glad to hear from you. You will be working in a busy, friendly environment and become part of a team with a very high level of commitment and where a sense of humour is a positive advantage. Salary neg.

Applications with CV and daytime tel. no. should be addressed to: Heidi Webb, DMB&B, Group Personnel Department, 123 Buckingham Palace, London SW1W 9DZ.
Tel no: 0171 592 2350 Fax no: 0171 592 1039.

Chairman of small Chartered Surveying Practice, London W1
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Salary: £18,500-£19,000 negotiable. Usual benefits available.
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Good communication and organisational skills, a sense of humour and initiative plus competence in Word Perfect 6.1 are essential.
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PA/PARALEGAL

Competitive salary

A major legal telecommunication company, based in Central London, requires a PA with legal qualifications to support the Director of Legal Services and a Senior Legal Advisor and to undertake some basic legal work. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and good keyboard skills are essential. Knowledge of 100 wpm shorthand, well-organised, excellent interpersonal skills with lots of initiative, you should be comfortable liaising at all levels in the organisation.

Applicants should send a Full CV to Box No. 4946.

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are looking for an energetic and adaptable person to take on a joint Administrative and Marketing/Sales role. Experience in furniture advantageous. Familiarity with Microsoft Windows essential. Excellent organisational skills required. Friendly working conditions.

Salary Range 17-20k
Telephone 0181 788 7477 for an application form and job spec.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

FULHAM estate agent req a sales negotiator 25/35 with energy, drive & determination to succeed. Exp preferred. Excellent salary + commission + generous car allowance. Fax your CV to Harrington Lewinnes 0171 731 1101.

PROPERTY

Negotiator. Due to expansion Parsons are looking for a sales negotiator with a proven track record in London and have a clean driving license. Proven sales record but not necessarily in estate agency. Above all must be a motivated, enthusiastic, customer motivated. Salary + comm. + car. 0171 221 2000

PART TIME VACANCIES

LIVELY but small architectural practice seeks part time Secretary. Office essential. £10k per week pro rata £14,500. Architecture, design, planning, contract admin, etc. Must be a member of the Institution of Chartered Secretaries. £12k-15k. 011 221 2000

NON-SECRETARIAL

PROFILES

DO YOU NEED ORGANISING? ... DELEGATE

Responsible, professional female seeks temporary post in London area as PA/Household Organizer. Experience includes: Yacht management, running a country residence, co-ordinator for social and corporate events. References available. Please Reply to Box No 4978

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Uxbridge

PA Secretary to Vice President
£16,000 + benefits including 25 days holiday
A charming but specialist role in a professional law firm and skills to include Ampco, Lotus and Proforma.

Personnel Secretary
£17,500 - £19,500 + benefits
Academic/tertiary education requires a good communicator with previous successful experience in a personnel environment but not with the ambition to pursue a career as a personnel officer. You will be a young team. Age 27+.

Team Secretary
To £16,500 + benefits including 25 days holiday
To assist this Project Management Team of architects and surveyors. You will enjoy using your fast typing skills using MSW4W v.6 and have Powerpoint under your belt for international use. Smart office near Harley Street.

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For further details contact Linda Howard, Personnel Advisor, at CASPE Consulting, 76 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LL. Tel: 0171-378-7588 (24-hr answer service). E-mail LHOWARD@caspe.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 25 April 1996

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FINANCIAL APPOINTMENTS

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Anglia & Oxford Regional Office - Milton Keynes
£38,000 to £59,700

Anglia and Oxford Regional Office's Provider Unit, a division of the NHS Executive, is responsible for monitoring the performance of 46 Trusts within its geographical boundaries, managing the capital allocation and generally the lead on Providing.

The Provider Unit is a team of 12, in which the Corporate Manager (Finance) is the internal lead on financial matters as well as working directly with around 20 of the Trusts on all matters including Business Planning, Business Cases and Financial Monitoring as well as national priorities like Patients Charter and the Private Finance Initiative.

You will have direct responsibility for managing the Regional Capital Programme of some £150 million per year, liaising with colleagues in Trusts, the NHS Executive Headquarters and the Treasury. Provider Unit objectives are achieved through influencing and persuading rather than direct managerial control, so the role requires exceptional interpersonal and communication skills as well as a demonstrably high level of competence. It is particularly important that you are able to work as part of a flexible, but very committed team.

To ensure a high level of credibility, you will have extensive experience at a senior level within an organisation. A CCAB qualification is essential as is willingness and availability to undertake extensive travelling.

On 1st April 1996 the Regional Office transferred to the Civil Service, as part of the NHS Executive. Depending on experience, the successful candidate may be appointed on an indefinite contract immediately or a fixed term contract of three years with the possibility of an indefinite contract at a later date. Secondment terms can also be arranged if appropriate for the new postholder. Relocation assistance may be available.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 3rd May 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2894.

As an equal opportunity employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

NHS Executive Headquarters

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Salary around £61,000 pa

The Director of Finance supervises the Board's finances, provides financial advice to the Board and its officers, designs, implements and supervises systems of financial control and maintains the Board's accounts.

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Applications must be made on the standard application form which along with further particulars can be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 112 Ingram Street, Glasgow G1 1ET (Tel: 0141 201 4611).

Closing date: 29th April 1996
Working Towards Equal Opportunities in Employment

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD

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The client is looking for an individual with obvious potential to grow significantly within the Finance function and is therefore offering an excellent range of benefits including help with relocation if appropriate. Interviews will be held locally.

Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to AF Advertising Limited, Bowcliffe Court, Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham, Leeds LS23 6LW Tel: 01937 841402. Fax: 01937 841403.

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Please send C.V. and details of current salary to:
Philippa Clarke (Personnel Manager)
Supermarket Direct, Flanagan House 118-120 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4DJ. Or fax: 0181 877 8035.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Financial Assistant to the Honorary Treasurer

The Physiological Society, a well established and successful charity, requires a Financial Assistant to the Honorary Treasurer who will be based in Central London.

Once the Financial Assistant has reviewed the existing accounting procedures and made any necessary recommendations, the job will encompass the recording of transactions, preparing management and financial accounts, and providing reports for the Society's Officers.

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Salary range: £22,374 - £31,357 pa (plus London Weighting of £2,960 pa) depending on experience and qualifications. Benefits include childcare allowance, flexible working hours and pension arrangements. The appointment is intended to be for six years in the first instance.

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FINANCIAL APPOINTMENTS

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An in-depth knowledge (including pricing experience) of all derivatives products and capital markets is essential, together with the ability to thrive in a busy trading floor atmosphere and excel in a challenging environment.

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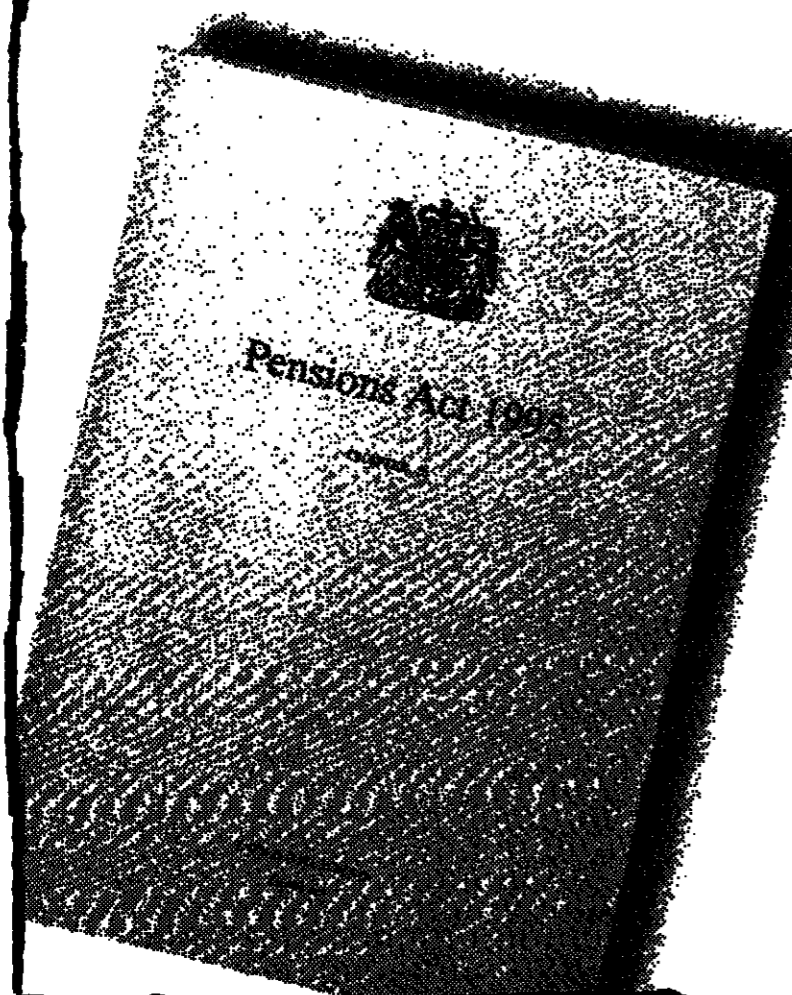
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PUBLIC & HEALTHCARE

**From
ACT into
ACTION**



BRIGHTON

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Caseworkers

To £25,000

Your role in the Caseworker Team will be key to the success of OPRA's investigative activities and its acquisition of a reputation for quality, objectivity and complete professionalism. Working as either a Screener (responding to complaints and enquiries about schemes, giving advice and deciding what further action ought to be taken) or an Investigator (planning and executing formal investigations into occupational schemes), you will liaise with our professional advisers and other enforcement bodies, make recommendations and prepare succinct, well-written reports.

In advance of April 1997, you will be involved in establishing casework procedures. Relevant experience will be essential and should ideally have been gained in a similar investigative area, or in the management or audit of pension schemes. It would be advantageous to have an appropriate degree, CCAB or PMI qualification.

You must be able to work well as a member of a team but also be able to work independently. You must also possess good inter-personal skills. Ref: C/2861.

Finance Manager

To £25,000

You will take responsibility for developing and maintaining OPRA's financial/accounting systems, monitor expenditure against budgets and forecasts and provide advice and guidance on financial matters to budget-holders. In addition to a recognised accounting or financial qualification, you will have excellent planning and organisational skills, the ability to analyse technical information and experience of communicating that information to non-specialists. Experience of either commercial or government accounting systems will be essential, along with knowledge of computerised accounting systems and spreadsheets. Ref: C/2883.

Secretary To The Board

To £25,000

Your duties will include the arrangement of meetings and public hearings, the control of budgets and expenses related to these events, as well as agenda-setting and minute-taking. You will also be involved in project work, the collection and collation of information and the drafting of speeches. Ideally possessing a relevant degree or professional qualification, you will need high-level experience of servicing a Board or Committee within either the Public or Private Sector. Ability to use word processing and spreadsheet PC packages and some knowledge of occupational pensions would be a bonus. Ref: C/2882.

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To £25,000

This is an ideal role for someone with experience of small systems management. You'll be responsible for OPRA's IT and related services including the procurement of hardware and software, the supply of in-house 'help desk' support and the management of staff and contractors/suppliers. Some experience of the procurement of goods and services will be essential, along with a relatively high degree of computer literacy, especially in Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 and Novell Netware 4.1. You will need to be approachable and adaptable and willing to take a 'hands on' approach. Ref: C/2884.

Personnel Manager

To £25,000

You will be responsible for providing a total personnel service to around 150 staff. Your focus will obviously be on recruitment, the development of policies and procedures, and staff resource planning and development but we shall also expect you to help create our organisational culture and working style, as well as develop internal communications and remuneration strategies. Your background will be generalist, although you'll need a sound knowledge of employment law and experience of recruitment using a range of techniques including testing and assessment centres. IPD trained, you will be creative, articulate and enthusiastic. Ref: C/2881.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 2nd May 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468951 (24 hours), or fax 01256 846478. Please quote appropriate reference number.

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OXFORD**

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Further particulars are available from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, tel (01865) 270003, to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent by 10 May 1996. The University admits to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

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**D
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c. £45,000 p.a.

Responsible for all aspects of our financial and IT affairs, you will ensure that effective, forward-thinking financial and IT strategies are developed and maintained and that your staff are well trained and highly motivated.

A qualified Accountant with at least 5 years' senior level experience, you will have exceptional all-round communication and negotiation skills, coupled with proven team management ability. Considerable knowledge of IT and computerised accounting systems is essential, as is the ability to advise managers at all levels on budgetary/financial issues and to think strategically and with vision in a complex, changing environment. Ref: 96/40.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

c. £35,000 p.a.

Responsible for all aspects of our Human Resources, you will ensure that the organisation has effective personnel and training/staff development functions that meet both its current and future needs and which promote established "best practice". The post will also encompass the development and implementation of equal opportunities, quality assurance and communication strategies.

This is a demanding post requiring at least 5 years' senior level experience and membership of the IPD. You will have experience of conducting Union negotiations and will possess exceptional communication and staff motivational skills. Previous experience of developing and implementing Policy and Procedural structures is essential, as is a knowledge of managing computerised personnel systems. Ref: 96/41.

For an application form and further details on either post, please telephone: 0171 602 9773 (24 hour answering service) quoting the appropriate reference number. Or write to: The Richmond Fellowship, 8 Addison Road, London, W14 8DL. Closing date for both posts: 30th April 1996.

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ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY
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The Police Authority for Northern Ireland invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced serving police officers of at least Superintendent level for appointment (2 positions) as

ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE
in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Candidates will be expected to have relevant experience of operational policing, policy and planning and be suitable on medical grounds for the post.

Candidates will also be expected to have completed either the Senior Command Course or the Strategic Leadership Development Programme.

The appointment will be for a fixed term, which will be not less than four years.

The salary will be in accordance with nationally agreed pay scales plus an RUC Allowance of £1,977.

The appointment of a successful candidate will require the approval of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Application forms and other information, which may be requested by telephone, can be obtained from: The Secretary and Chief Executive, Police Authority for Northern Ireland, 6th Floor, River House, 48 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DR, Telephone: Belfast (01232) 230111, Exts 20213/4/5 (Closing date: 3 May 1996)

The shortlisting of candidates for interview will be held during week commencing 3 June 1996. The interviews will take place during week commencing 1 July 1996.

THE POLICE AUTHORITY IS COMMITTED TO APPOINTING STAFF STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF MERIT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY, THE AUTHORITY WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

Godolphin team in race against time

By JULIAN MUSCAT

AFTER the frenzied activity on Newmarket Heath yesterday, the classic countdown continues on pastures 3,500 miles distant this morning when Godolphin's best three-year-olds are tested against the clock in Dubai.



The grey Bint Shadayid, who won at Goodwood last August, is among the classic prospects taking part in time trials in Dubai today

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: **TARA RAMBLER** (3.40 Cheltenham)
Next best: **Chicodari** (4.50 Cheltenham)

standard of race they will contest on their return to Britain later this month. With the string set to arrive within days of the Newmarket classics, these private trials equate to a series of strenuous recourse gallops for Godolphin's lightly-raced string. Lanfranco Dettori, who rode work in Newmarket yesterday, immediately left for Dubai to join a quartet of work riders, completed by Richard Hills, Bryn Crossley and John Williams. The latter two are now indentured to Godolphin. "It is important we have riders who are familiar with the track here at Al Quoz," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "It is very different to riding work in a straight line on grass. The times of the gallops are crucial to our training programme and experienced riders are instru-

mental if we are to interpret them accurately." Godolphin's glittering successes in Britain last season - their runners landed three classics and finished third and fourth in the other two - alerted an unsuspecting public to the stable's potential. Both Mark Of Esteem and Bint Shadayid were well supported for the classics last month when it emerged they had pleased connections in their preparatory work. Most of this morning's ac-

tivity will see teams of four horses galloping around one bend over seven furlongs on dirt. Starting from stalls, each group will be led by a proven older horse which is capable of setting specific fractions. At strict weight-for-age terms, it will require a three-year-old of above-average ability to collar the lead horse.

The desert stable, at present 85-strong, will be culled to half that number for Godolphin's annual trip to its base at Moulton Paddocks in New-

market. "We are already pretty clear in our minds which horses will be on that plane," Crisford said. "Everything is on schedule." "We know exactly what each horse has been doing, every day, going back months," he continued. "The work will test a few of them for speed and some may not make it. Much of the exercise centres around Mark Of Esteem, who has been doing well. But he must work well to book his place in the 2,000 Guineas."

Among the horses ridden by Dettori at Newmarket yesterday was Maid For The Hills. Trained by David Loder, Maid For The Hills is expected to test the water in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket on Tuesday. Her showing will give Loder a valuable pointer. Blue Duster, second favourite for the 1,000 Guineas behind Bosra Sham, also hails from the Loder stable. She is projected to contest the fillies' classic without a prep race. Dance Sequence, three be-

Flying Gunner has valuable prize in sights

CHELTEHAM CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.30: Not a race to get involved with from a betting point of view, with doubts about all four runners. Mole Board was pulled up in the Stayers' Hurdle here last month and, at 14, is surely past his prime. Top-class chaser Bradbury Star has a tremendous record over fences here, but has not been seen since struggling into second behind Grange Brake at Cheltenham in December and may need the run, while Hops And Pops needs to improve.

That leaves Boro Eight to land the spoils. He has not been at his best this season, but was far from disgraced when fourth to Urubande at Aintree and a reproduction of that form should suffice.

3.05: Viking Flagship, who returned to his best when trouncing Sound Man at Aintree, should have little trouble here. Travado, 64 lengths behind Viking Flagship when the pair were second and fourth in the Champion Chase here, makes more appeal than Gales Cavalier, who is unlikely to stay.

3.40: Strong Promise will be all the rage here after falling by a neck to catch Urubande at Aintree, but the handicapper has taken no chances with him and he looks as one to oppose. The progressive Tara Rambler, an easy winner at Doncaster, and Uncle Keeny, who possibly failed to

stay three miles when third to Top Spin at Aintree, both have claims. However, preference is for Flying Gunner, who was cruising when falling three out at Newbury last month and may have been let in lightly on his handicap debut.

4.15: General Rusty may have just needed the run, his first for five months, when fourth at Uttoxeter recently. Nonetheless, he is handicapped up to his best and may find a couple too good here. Big Ben Dun overcame an absence of nearly three years when winning at Folkestone, but this is a much stronger contest.

Proud Sun has had problems with his jumping in hunter chases this season, but proved his ability to complete the course here when fourth in the Foxhunter's at the Festival, and is potentially well handicapped. With Grand National-winning jockey Mick Fitzgerald taking over the reins today, he is well worth an interest.

ROBERT WRIGHT

'Flapping' owners banned for ten years

OWNERS Patricia Hamilton and Jim McDonald were yesterday each warned off for ten years by the Jockey Club after a "flapping" inquiry.

They were declared disqualified persons for their involvement with Pretty Average, a winner last year at Thirkby, who was found to have run in unlicensed races in Scotland under the name of Short'n' Sweet.

An expected lengthy inquiry by the disciplinary committee into the case was in fact concluded in under two hours after McDonald and Hamilton both acknowledged that they were in breach of the rules.

Hamilton admitted to a breach of Rule 220 (viii) which covers misleading race-course stewards, while McDonald admitted to a breach of rules covering an

involvement with flapping horses, including the running of another flapper - Hotspur - under Rules by the name of Bluefluids in 1995.

Pretty Average was a well-backed 20-1 winner of the Rocom Selling Handicap on July 29 last year for trainer Basil Richmond, who was cleared of any breach of the rules prior to the inquiry.

An involvement with flappers usually carries a penalty of disqualification from ownership for 12 months. But Jockey Club director of public affairs, David Pipe, said: "The stewards of the disciplinary committee viewed this as an extremely serious offence as the public, bookmakers, the Jockey Club and the handicapper had all been deliberately deceived for financial gain."

Both horses involved in the case had been entered to run in flapping races this weekend. This is thought to have brought proceedings to a hasty conclusion. Hamilton had previously denied that the mare had been flapping. The couple declined to comment after the hearing.

Tyrone Williams had a four-day ban for careless riding extended by a day after an unsuccessful appeal. The Jockey Club suspended riding Backview for trainer Bernard Llewellyn at Wolverhampton on April 2 - the horse finished first in the Thorpe Vernon Handicap but was placed third.

The Jockey Club disciplinary committee rejected Llewellyn's appeal against the demotion, upgraded the charge against Williams from careless to irresponsible riding and added a fifth day to the jockey's ban, which starts today.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ripon
Going: good
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Great and good of golf gather to celebrate another expression of mastery

Hope springs eternal at wintry Augusta

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

THE front of the wooden clubhouse at Augusta National Golf Club here in Georgia is where the dignitaries arrive, sweeping up Magnolia Lane in cars as long as a Tiger Woods drive and curving around the flowerbed before coming to a halt. But it is around the back of the white, two-storey building where the course begins its headlong plunge nearly 200 feet towards Amen Corner that it all happens.

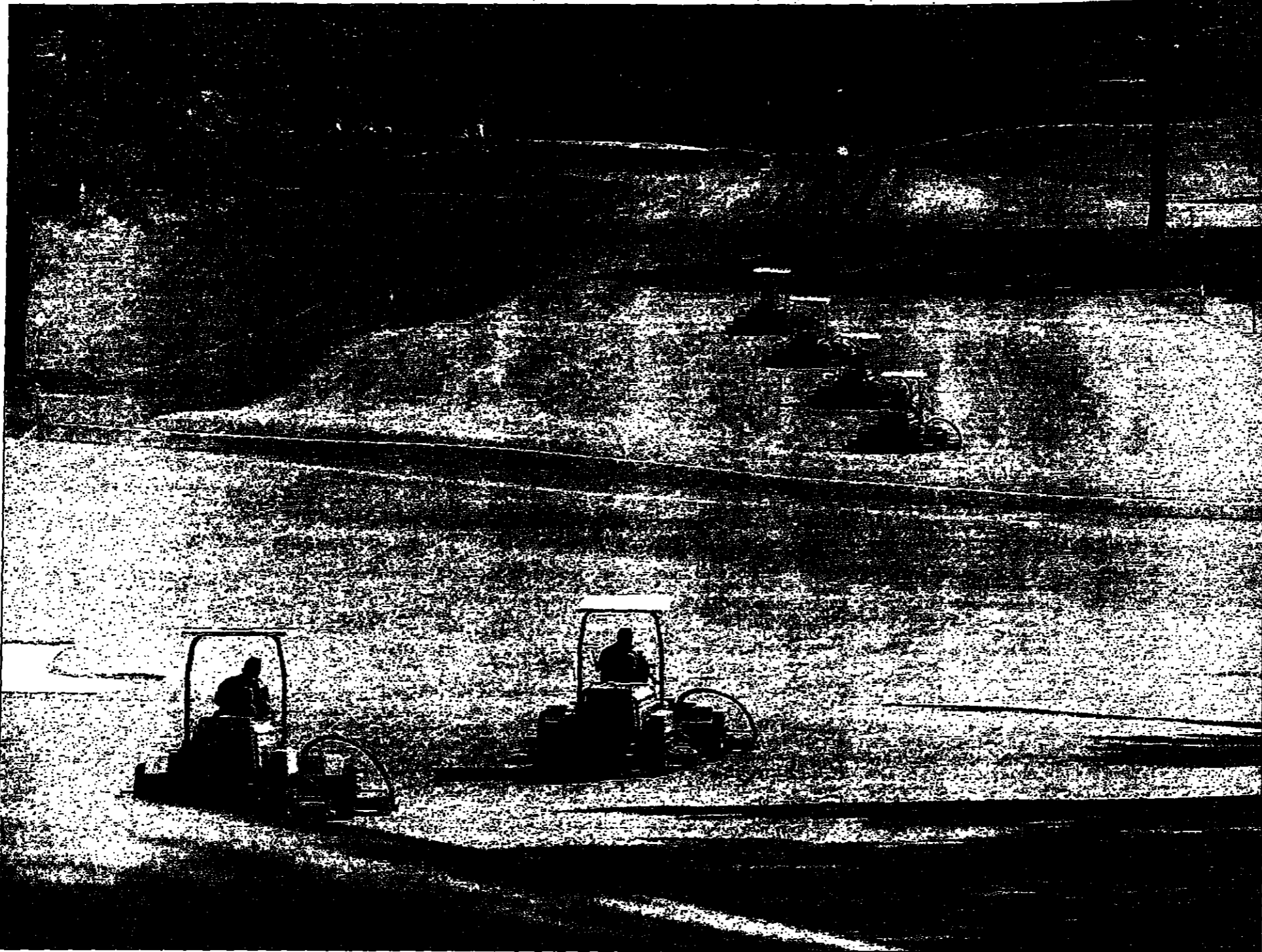
There, on a patch of green-sward as big as a village green, is an enclosure bounded by a thin green rope. All competitors must pass by on their way from the locker-rooms to the putting green or the 1st tee, or from the 18th green back to the clubhouse. This is the most select enclosure in the game. This is where everyone who is anyone gathers during Masters golf. If you are in golf and you cannot get a pass to be in here, you are not in golf.

Yesterday, on the eve of the sixtieth Masters, a weak sun shone on this scene from a sky as clear as gun-metal. It had snowed 200 miles to the north. Amen Corner was far from a riot of azaleas, cherry blossom and white dogwood. The 3rd did not live up to its name. Flowering Peach, nor were there many flowering crab apples in evidence on the 4th. Now a biting wind was marking the last gasps of winter. An oak tree as old as America spread itself benevolently over the enclosure and, beneath it, old-timers said that never in living memory had its branches been so bare of leaves.

Suddenly, there was a stir. Over there, cornered by a posse of journalists as he entered the enclosure from the course, was Gary Player. He was holding forth on the question of age. "Here I am at 60 and I walk around as if I was 20," he was saying. "I may be 60 in age but I am 45 in body."

Nearby was a member of the Royal and Ancient in blazer, club tie and grey flannels, a touch of British sobriety in a riot of colours. A courtesy car had been sent to the club to collect him and his wife and, on getting out of the car, he had muttered to the driver, *sotto voce*: "I don't suppose I could slip you a couple of dollars." The driver bellowed his answer: "Don't bother to slip them to me, buddy."

Severiano Ballesteros came striding through after his round with Player. His 39th birthday on Tuesday had not gone unnoticed, nor had Gordon Sherry's 22nd the previous day. Carmen Ballesteros had bought her husband some swimming trunks. "Too



The mowers move along the 8th fairway with military precision at Augusta in preparation for the Masters, which begins today. Photograph: Phil Sandlin

bright." Ballesteros said when he saw them.

Now a journalist was questioning him about his swing. "Nick Faldo says you should go and rent a house at Lake Nona and see Lead [David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, who teaches there] for as long as it takes to sort out your swing. What do you think?" Ballesteros stiffened and looked his questioner long and hard in the eye. He had heard such suggestions again and again. "I have no comment on that," he said.

Ballesteros had wanted José María Olazábal, his countryman, to be at the dinner for the international players held in the clubhouse and, in a gesture of support, the players that night decided to send Olazábal, at home in Spain suffering from rheumatoid ar-

thritis in both feet, a cheery golf. They've cut the fairways back towards us again this year," Colin Montgomerie explained, breaking off from eating a low-cholesterol, fat-free salad with his wife, Eimear, who has also shed a dramatic amount of weight.

"When you stand on the 1st tee, the fairway is very dark and the 9th fairway very

light," Montgomerie said. The ball rolls less. It makes the course about 15 yards longer than it used to.

Spectators gathered in groups around white plastic tables, drinking in the scene. Waiters hurried hither and yon, bearing trays of drinks. Menus swayed in the gentle wind. The winner, the man over whose shoulders the green jacket would be slipped

early on Sunday evening, had passed by, perhaps with no more than a second glance at the knots of people gathered inside the enclosure and perhaps with little acknowledgment from them.

This was the way Bobby Jones had wanted it, and Jones being Jones, this was the way it had worked out. A gathering of the great and good in golf.

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO AUGUSTA

HOLE	PAR	YARDS	PAR	YARDS	
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	565	5	11	455	4
3	380	4	12	195	3
4	225	3	13	485	5
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	5
7	380	4	16	170	3
8	635	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4
OUT	3,465	36	IN	3,460	36
TOTAL		6,925	72		

MASTERS RECORDS

Most victories: 6, Jack Nicklaus, 4, Arnold Palmer.
 Oldest winner: 46, Jack Nicklaus (1986).
 Youngest winner: 23, Severiano Ballesteros (1980).
 Lowest round: 63, Nick Price (1989).
 Lowest outward half: 30, Johnny Miller (1975), Greg Norman (1986).
 Lowest inward half: 29, Mark Calcavecchia (1992).
 Lowest total: 271, Jack Nicklaus (1965), Ray Floyd (1976).
 Biggest winning margin: 8 shots, Jack Nicklaus (1965).
 Successful defenses: 1965-66, Jack Nicklaus; 1989-90, Nick Faldo.

TEE-OFF TIMES

- All times BST, US unless stated
- 12:45: G Sarazen, B Nelson, S Snead (Provisional starters)
 - 13:00: C Coody, number
 - 13:05: G Brewer, D Ford
 - 13:15: T Aaron, B Casper
 - 13:27: R Tway, T Tryba
 - 13:38: P Azinger, D Gifford (GB)
 - 13:45: M Lannister, K Woods
 - 13:54: B Bryant, E Dougherty
 - 14:03: S Ballesteros (Sp), J Maggert
 - 14:12: I Kie, D A Weirking
 - 14:21: P Jacobson, F Hobbie (NZ)
 - 14:30: J Sturman, B Faxon
 - 14:38: M McCumber, T Heron
 - 14:48: L Langston, N Price (Zim)
 - 14:57: B Cranshaw, S McCann
 - 15:06: A Palmer, B Marzoc
 - 15:15: S Lowery, M Roe (GB)
 - 15:24: J Baker-Finch (Aus), H Sutton
 - 15:33: M Mickelson, S Torrance (GB)
 - 15:42: D Waldorf, S Sotcher
 - 15:51: S Hoch, P Stanekowski
 - 16:00: R Floyd, D Frost (SA)
 - 16:08: J Gallagher Jr, W Mayfair
 - 16:18: G Pann, V Singh (Fiji)
 - 16:27: W Austin, M Brooks
 - 16:36: W Glasson, R Estes
 - 16:45: L Mize, C Rocca (It)
 - 16:54: L Lyle (GB), K Pary
 - 17:03: M Calcavecchia, J Huston
 - 17:12: F Funk, P Goydos
 - 17:21: T Watson, S Elkington (Aus)
 - 17:30: G Cranshaw, T Woods
 - 17:38: N Faldo (GB), J Daly
 - 17:48: B Langer (Ger), J Courville Jr
 - 17:57: J Nicklaus, M Campbell (NZ)
 - 18:06: J Haas, T Lehman
 - 18:15: C Strang, S Simpson
 - 18:24: D Love III, C Montgomerie (GB)
 - 18:33: F Couples, G Shery (GB)
 - 18:42: C Pann, V Singh (Fiji)
 - 18:51: P Stewart, M O'Neary
 - 19:00: F Zoeller, G Norman (Aus)
 - 19:08: J Woosnam (GB), A Cajka (Ger)
 - 19:18: G Studer, E Els (SA)
 - 19:27: H Inan, M Ozaki (Japan)
 - 19:36: J Leonard, D Duval
 - 19:45: L Roberts, S Higashi (Japan)
 - 19:54: D Edwards, J Funk

Lions aim to test S Africa three times

THE British Isles rugby union team will next year play in a South African township for the first time since apartheid was abolished, as part of a campaign to spread the game to the black community. The game, against an Eastern Province Invitation XV, will be at Korsten, outside Port Elizabeth, on May 24.

It will be the first Lions visit to South Africa since 1980 and the team, chosen from players from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, will play three games against South Africa, the world champions, in Cape Town on June 21, Durban on June 28 and Johannesburg on July 5.

ITINERARY: May 24: Eastern Province XV (Port Elizabeth); 25: Western Province (Cape Town); 31: Free State (Bloemfontein); June 4: Transvaal (Johannesburg); 7: Northern Transvaal (Pretoria); 11: South Eastern Transvaal (Witbank); 16: Natal (Durban); 17: Emerging Stars (Wingsburg); 21: South Africa (Cape Town); 24: Border (East London); 28: South Africa (Durban); July 1: SA Barbarians (Wolfontein); 5: South Africa (Johannesburg).

Poser for Wigan

Rugby league: Wigan could struggle to keep Jason Robinson, the Great Britain wing, away from the clutches of the Australian Rugby League (ARL), even though the player has said he wants to stay at the club. At a reported £1.1 million, a four-year deal for Robinson, 21, was the ARL's heaviest single outlay in £5.4 million spent on luring nine British-based players at the height of the battle with Super League a year ago.

Robinson is due to join an unspecified ARL club when his contract expires at Wigan in June next year. The problem for the financially-pressed club is its inability to match or come anywhere near the ARL deal.

Late shock

Squash: The newly-crowned British Open champion, Jansher Khan, withdrew at the last moment from the final of the Squash Tour 96 Mutuelle Francaise suffering from back pain and blisters. Khan had been scheduled to play Jonathan Power, of Canada, yesterday, but his management company, Advantage International, informed the Professional Squash Association that he would not be able to compete, the PSA said. A medical certificate stated Khan would be out of action for at least a week. Power now plays John White, of Australia.

Bad fall

Cycling: Wilfried Nelissen, the Belgian champion, broke his leg in a fall during a race yesterday and will probably miss the rest of the season. Nelissen fell during the Ghent-Waveleern road race across western Belgium. The injury might keep him out of racing for at least a year.

Kirui hurt

Athletics: Ismael Kirui, the world 5,000 metres gold medal-winner, has pulled out of the BUPA International Skm road race in Portsmouth on Saturday. Kirui, due to face many top Britons, injured his leg last weekend when running in Switzerland.

Davis Love III.

His 1st win at the Vth attempt: XVI/1.

TO WIN THE US MASTERS

Augusta. Starts today. Live coverage on BBC.

11/1 F. Couples	33/1 J. Daly
14/1 C. Montgomerie	33/1 J. Haas
14/1 G. Norman	33/1 S. Hoch
16/1 E. Els	33/1 L. Janzen
16/1 D. Love III	33/1 B. Langer
16/1 C. Pavin	33/1 M. O'Meara
16/1 N. Price	33/1 L. Roberts
18/1 N. Faldo	33/1 V. Singh
20/1 S. Elkington	40/1 M. Calcavecchia
20/1 T. Lehman	40/1 D. Frost
20/1 P. Mickelson	40/1 J. Furyk
20/1 L. Woosnam	40/1 P. Stewart

EW one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4. Other prices on request. Non-striker - no bet.

FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME

'95 US Masters Agals.	'95 US Open 1,2	'95 Open Revised
B. Cranshaw (50/1)	C. Pavin (16/1)	J. Daly (33/1)
D. Love III (18/1)	G. Norman (14/1)	C. Rocca (150/1)
Dual Forecast odds 420/1	Dual Forecast odds 125/1	Dual Forecast odds 2,000/1

FOR INSTANT BETTING, FREEPHONE 0800 524 524

Ladbroke's

For a flutter, Ladbroke's are favourite.

Britain pay penalty for indiscipline

GREAT BRITAIN showed some of their old failings in the opening game of pool B in the world ice hockey championships in Eindhoven yesterday, incurring far too many penalties in their defeat (Norman de Mesquita writes).

The winning goal came on the eighth occasion that the Latvians enjoyed a manpower advantage and saw Alexander Belavskis score from his own rebound after a goalmouth scramble.

The Latvians had opened the scoring in the seventeenth minute, only for Paul Adey to sink his own rebound after a defensive mix-up 33 seconds later. Early in the second period, Graham Garden gave Britain the lead for the first time. Too much emphasis on attack, however, allowed the Latvians an equaliser.

Yet another penalty enabled Alex Maciejvskis to regain the lead for Latvia, but Steve Moria took advantage of a rare Latvian penalty to bring the scores level once again.

Surrey recruit Julian as overseas player

SURREY, disappointed in their attempt to recruit the South Africa Test cricketer, Brian McMillan, announced yesterday that they had signed Brendon Julian, 25, the Australia fast bowler, as their overseas player for the coming season.

The Western Australia left-arm made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1993, the first of seven appearances for his country.

He has played in more than 50 Sheffield Shield matches since his debut against Tasmania in 1989-90 and last season took 46 wickets at 28.85 runs apiece, nine of them coming in the drawn Sheffield Shield final against South Australia.

McMillan had agreed to sign for two years but the move was blocked by Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Julian has been signed on a one-year contract, leaving Surrey with the option of re-engaging Waqar Younis, of Pakistan, for 1997.

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U.S. MASTERS GOLF

Starts today, Augusta.

OUTRIGHT BETTING

12/1 F. Couples	20/1 D. Love III
14/1 C. Montgomerie	20/1 P. Mickelson
14/1 G. Norman	20/1 C. Pavin
14/1 N. Price	25/1 D. Frost
16/1 E. Els	28/1 B. Langer
16/1 N. Faldo	33/1 J. Daly
16/1 T. Lehman	33/1 J. Haas
20/1 S. Elkington	33/1 L. Janzen

Each way one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Others on request.

TOP EUROPEAN PLAYER

2/1 C. Montgomerie	20/1 D. Gifford
5/2 N. Faldo	20/1 S. Lyle
9/2 L. Woosnam	20/1 C. Rocca
5/1 B. Langer	20/1 S. Torrance
20/1 S. Ballesteros	25/1 A. Cajka

Each way one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Others on request.

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION AVAILABLE UP 4.00pm.

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT

William Hill

Giggs excused international duty Wales experiment as Gould looks beyond old guard

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BOBBY GOULD has always done things his way, no matter the quizzical looks and raised eyebrows, and he remained true to form yesterday when he announced his Wales squad for the international football match against Switzerland in Lugano on April 24. No Ryan Giggs, who is being allowed to concentrate on his Manchester United commitments, no Mark Hughes, no Ian Rush, and, most surprising, no Neville Southall.

and Andy Marrion, of Wrexham, taking over the goalkeeping duties. Southall, who has 85 caps, will still travel with the party as part of the coaching team.

"I think the time has come for common sense to prevail," Gould, who replaced Mike

SQUAD

WALE PART: A Mamont (Wrexham), D Coyne (Tranmere Rovers), S Jenkins (Blackburn Rovers), K Symons (Manchester City), C Coleman (Blackburn Rovers), R Page (Warrington), M Bowen (Wrexham), J. B. Horne (Exeter), M Pemberton (Sheff Wednes), J. Goss (Norwich City), V Jones (Wimbledon), S. Preece (Cardiff), A. Leger (Birmingham City), J. Robertson (Cardiff Athletic), J. Harrison (Aston), D. Williams (Aston), N. Blain (Bolton Wanderers), G. Taylor (Sheff Wednes)

Smith as manager in August last year, said. "We are approaching a very important time for both Wales and for me, and we have to see how some of these lads get on in the heat of battle."

"Some players seem to have

just assumed they would be selected, but there are times when you have to experiment. It is our last competitive game before we get involved in the World Cup."

After the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Terni, near Rome, in January, Gould needs to explore every possibility. Wales were outplayed so comprehensively that it was difficult to feel optimistic about their World Cup prospects in a group which also includes Holland, Belgium and Turkey.

Robert Page, 21, the Walford defender, and Andrew Legge, 29, the Birmingham City midfielder player, are included in the senior squad for the first time.

Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon midfielder player, returns from suspension, having been sent off in the 1-0 defeat by Georgia in the European championship qualifier in Cardiff last June.

"Vinnie now has the chance to continue the good sequence of form he is in at the moment," Gould said. "He is playing very well and has cleaned up his act. He was told, in no uncertain terms, that he had to."

Jones, 31, asked Wimbledon for a transfer in December, after losing his place in the side. However, after returning to the first team and playing a leading part in the club's revival, he has indicated that he might like to stay after all. "I love a challenge and the passion is back," he said.

Plymouth Argyle and the city council have plans for a new £25 million stadium to seat 23,000. It is to be built on land near Argyle's Home Park ground.

Plymouth are expected to receive funding from the Greater Plymouth Local Authority and the European Union.

Brighton and Hove Albion could remain at the Goldstone Ground for another year. The club had ruled this out after the developers, Chartwell, had asked for £800,000 in rent to allow football at the ground next season. The club's chief executive, David Bellotti, has offered £200,000.



Sampras finds his range while serving against Lareau in Hong Kong yesterday

Sampras makes mixed start

PETE SAMPRAS, the world No 2, overcame a lapse in concentration in the second set to defeat Marcos Ondruska, of Canada, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the Hong Kong Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Sampras, the No 1 seed, was joined in the second round by his fellow American, Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, who defeated Marcos Ondruska, of South Africa, 7-6, 6-1.

Sampras, who took time off last week after his defeat by Goran Ivanisevic in the semi-finals of the Lipton Championships, was at his best either side of the second set, when he admitted to losing his concentration.

Divided nation desperate for sporting prize

Rob Hughes explains why the South Koreans feel the World Cup could shape their destiny

From his official residence, an English country house inconspicuously set amid the high rise modernity of Seoul, Tom Harris, Britain's ambassador, can see exactly what South Korea would do with the World Cup 2002. It is general election day in Seoul, and 50 days from a vote which the former prime minister, Dr Lee Hong Koo, has said is more important to his country than the political ball.

Harris can understand the point. "This country has a great ability to set itself national targets. I saw the willpower they invested into the 1988 Olympic Games, which marked the transition from military authority to democracy. The World Cup would signal the arrival of Korea as one of the world's most developed nations."

South Korea contests the 2002 bid against Japan on June 1. "A World Cup comes once in a lifetime," Dr Lee, who left the office of prime minister four months ago and is now chairman of the World Cup bidding committee, said. "If we get the World Cup, I consider it will not be to South Korea, but to the Korean peninsula. I would invite senior North Korean statesmen to have a discussion on this. It really could be a breakthrough."

'Cheerful' Busst must wait for surgery

DAVID BUSST, the Coventry City defender, must wait until next week for surgery to repair the compound fracture of his right leg that he sustained on Monday in his side's defeat at Manchester United. Busst, described as "remarkably cheerful" as he lay in a bed at Hope Hospital, Salford, yesterday, when surgeons checked the wound.

Steve Harkness, 24, of Liverpool, who sustained a broken leg in a challenge by John Salako, of Coventry, said he "bore no grudge" against the player, despite the injury robbing him of a chance to play in the FA Cup Final against Manchester United next month. Harkness said: "I can't bear him any grudge - tackling is part of my game."

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, dates, and locations. Includes sections for Baseball, Basketball, Football, and other sports.

RUGBY UNION

Table listing rugby union fixtures, including matches between teams like Worcester and Gloucester, and dates.

SQUASH

Table listing squash fixtures, including matches between players like J. P. Flanagan and J. W. H. Jones.

KEENE ON CHESS

White: Ruth Sheldon, Black: Steve Mannion. Menchik Memorial, 1996. Benko Gambit. Sicilian Defence.

CRICKET

Table listing cricket fixtures, including matches between teams like Lancashire and Warwickshire.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Table listing rifle shooting fixtures, including matches between teams like Great Britain and Ireland.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Table listing rugby league fixtures, including matches between teams like Hull and Wigan.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for various sports, including football, basketball, and tennis.

POOL DIVIDENDS

Table listing pool dividends for various pool games, including snooker and pool.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard. BUSHNELL'S TURTLE. A COGGESHALL JOB. A Leftovers. MATAPAN STEW.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene. Black to play. This position is from the game von Freytmann - Alekhine, St Petersburg, 1914.

THE TIMES

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RUGBY UNION

Lowestoft v Wotton (7.45); Woodbridge v Norwich (8.15); Ipswich v Colchester (8.45); etc.

OTHER SPORT

Hockey: Women's International: Great Britain v Holland (8.15pm); etc.

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game von Freytmann - Alekhine, St Petersburg, 1914.

Bogus tradition is burning brightly

Instant history has always been one of the best events in the Olympics. From torch relays to flocks of doves, organisers have created traditions that seem to have been around for ever.

In this Olympic year, the longest relay ever run is already a dozen days old — and it will not be over until mid-July. That is when the Olympic flame — now flickering its way from ancient Olympia to Georgia — will reach Atlanta for the opening of the summer Games.

More than 10,000 runners are carrying the torch, first to ancient sites in Greece and then across the United States, in a ritual that seems to reek of antiquity. But the Olympic torch relay is actually younger by half a century than its sponsor, Coca-Cola, and was dreamt up as a propaganda exercise for the Nazi Olympics of Berlin in 1936.

At noon on July 20, 1936, there occurred an eerie scene in western Greece that created an instant Olympic tradition. Fifteen Greek men, dressed in ancient-style costumes, gathered at what had been the entrance to the great stadium at ancient Olympia. Using a large concave reflector, they lit a flame from the rays of the sun. A slender, deeply-tanned boy, clad only in tight-

fitting briefs, lit a heavy silver torch from the flame and headed off towards Athens.

Every detail was filmed by Leini Riefenstahl, who actually wanted the torch-bearers to run naked. The Greek peasant boys, recruited to run with the torches, were having none of it, but even so the relay became an instant publicity success.

It had been dreamt up by Dr Carl Diem, the head of the organising committee of the Berlin Games, who had roped in Germany's top chemists and engineers from the Krupp company to design the torches. They burnt magnesium and were meant to stay alight for ten minutes.

All went smoothly until the relay reached Yugoslavia, where the torches started to splutter out in less than three minutes. The take-over stages were a kilometre apart, and, in desperation, the runners were forced to leap onto the running boards of cars to keep the flame alive.

Rumours, denied in Berlin, said that the torch had been blown out on several occasions. The cautious Dr Diem insisted that a spare flame, also lit at Olympia, should follow the relay in a ship's lantern on the back seat of an accompanying Opel sedan.

There had been an Olympic flame



as a focal point for the celebrations of the centenary of the 1896 Games in Athens, the first of the modern Olympics. But the real hype will begin when the torch reaches Los Angeles on April 27.

It will be escorted by a caravan of 40 vehicles as it burns its way through 42 states and comes within a two-hour distance of an estimated 90 per cent of the US population. It will travel by foot, bicycle, train, horse, canoe, steamboat, sailing boat and plane. This week it was announced that China's first gold medal-winner, Xu Haiheng, a pistol shooter, will carry the flame through San Francisco's Chinatown. Other specially chosen "community heroes" will take it across the Hoover Dam and the White House lawn.

All of this publicity feast, and the sacred flame itself, is, of course, sponsored by Coca-Cola. Atlanta, the venue for the centenary Olympics, is where Coca-Cola was born ten years before Baron de Coubertin launched his Games in Greece, and the company is spending \$600 million (£390 million) to link itself to this summer's Games. In this commercial playing field, even the Olympic torches are for sale. More than 10,000 souvenir torches will be on offer to

participants in the relay — at \$300 each.

The Olympic torch is clearly something of a collector's item. Joe Kollmann is offering on the Internet a torch from the original 1936 relay, in mint condition, for \$4,000. And, in 1992, a Greek on the first leg of the relay from Olympia to Barcelona sat down for a breather and had the torch stolen from him.

But the tradition of the torch is not going to be knocked off track by robbery or commercialism. The Olympic flame, like the Games, has endured and survived through wars, terrorism, drug scandals and boycotts.

Perhaps, though, the torch masters should beware. Not all Olympic traditions survive. The releasing of doves has been a focal point of every opening ceremony since 1920 but, at the Seoul Olympics of 1988, the traditions of doves and torch came into conflict. A number of the birds roosted in the cauldron of the Olympic flame and were incinerated before a worldwide audience of hundreds of millions. This time, the entry of the Olympic torch will be as spectacular as ever — but the doves have been given the right off.

JOHN BRYANT

'The relay is younger than its sponsor'

Leading clubs will delay decision to make or break

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

REPRESENTATIVES of England's leading rugby union clubs will try to buy time today before they decide whether to bow to their governing body, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), or to go their own way.

The first division clubs meet in London this morning, angered at the RFU's refusal to grant them the independence of action they believe is necessary in the sport's professional era. But the implications for them of a breakaway are horrendous. Barely able, in many cases, to support impending wage bills, they would be faced with running a parallel game — with all the logistical costs implied — and would be obliged to deny their players international rugby.

"It is the ultimate, nightmare club v country scenario," Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain and England centre, said. "The players are in an intolerable position. There is no question of a compromise not being available which would be of benefit to both sides. But there needs to be a lot of give and take."

The situation created by the RFU's refusal to concede negotiating and administrative rights to the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs

Limited (EPRUC) on Tuesday has placed the clubs' backs against a wall. What follows will be the acid test of the unity of EPRUC and the support from their partners in the European Rugby Clubs Association, formed in January. For, if English clubs are to contemplate a breakaway, they must carry their opposite numbers from Wales and

Richmond yesterday signed Adrian Davies, Z, the stand-off half capped nine times by Wales, and Andy Moore, Z, who has played four times at scrum half for Wales, from Cardiff. Richmond, assured of promotion to a 14-strong Courage Clubs Championship second division next season, are seeking four more players with the backing of Ashley Levett, the Monaco-based millionaire.

France with them or left with only themselves to play. Ireland's clubs have already agreed a new structure with their union, the Scots have been less involved in the endless round of meetings prior to the establishment of the European association. In

any case, it is competition with France and Wales that the English clubs seek, both to enhance the quality of their rugby and to boost their revenue to pay salaries next season to players and staff.

Implicit in all this is the role of television. Without television money, the clubs are lost, which weakens their negotiating position. Although television executives have assured the national unions that they will negotiate only with them, there is reason to suppose the clubs have also been in talks and may feel frustrated enough to try and deliver the present generation of English players to the highest bidder, lock, stock and barrel.

The impeder for the clubs is the proportion of the game they represent. Yesterday, Richard Mawditt, the chairman of Bath, suggested that, rather than the clubs breaking away, Cliff Brittle and the RFU executive committee were already splitting from the clubs. There is no doubt that the clubs see Brittle, the executive committee chairman, as the main stumbling block to progress.

"Our representative at Thursday's meeting will not be mandated to disaffiliate from the RFU," Mawditt said. "In fact, I doubt if many there will be, but he can talk in those terms if that is the way we have to confront the RFU."

Against that, Symon Elliott, chief executive of Richmond, offered the RFU his club's support. Richmond has played no part in negotiations thus far but they will be promoted to the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship next season and thus qualify for membership of EPRUC. "As a founding member of the RFU, Richmond supports them in their role as controller of the game in England," Elliott said. "I very much hope EPRUC and the RFU can resolve their differences."

But de Glanville asked: "How can the clubs plan for professional rugby without a guaranteed source of income which is not subject to the vagaries of a committee? That is a fundamental principle." At the moment, de Glanville has only his RFU contract, running until next September, as his rugby income; Bath, like most clubs, are still struggling to finalise their contractual arrangements for next season.

"There has to be a balance between giving the clubs the autonomy they want and commitment by the clubs to work under the RFU," de Glanville said. If ever there was a time for players and long-standing club officials to make their views known, it is now.



Underwood sinks Navy

Royal Navy..... 12
RAF..... 14

By PETER BILLS

RORY UNDERWOOD ensured himself yet another fixture to cram into the congested finish to his rugby union season by scoring the try that knocked the Navy's hold on the Inter Services title at Twickenham yesterday.

Underwood exposed some shaky tackling to break past White and race almost 30 yards for the winning score. It meant that the RAF won the Willis Corroon Hibernia Cup, played for by these two sides, and gives them an opportunity to land their first services title since 1994 when they play the Army next Wednesday.

Until Underwood's intervention, forward might, exemplified in the bulky form of Bob Armstrong, of Bristol, seemed to have put the Navy on course to come from behind and retain their title.

Navy took until the second half to get to grips with a spirited RAF side. Once they had done so, they swiftly transformed a 9-0 interval deficit into a 12-9 lead, which should have been consolidated by their forward superiority.

The Navy launched a series of tough, driving runs, which the RAF defence did well to repel. But after Lazenby's three first-half penalties at 25, 33 and 37 minutes, the Navy scored five minutes after half-time. Livingstone dived round the side of a maul to put White through for the try. Crucially, Eyre's conversion hit a post.

Sixteen minutes later, the Navy were ahead and justly so because of the stirring efforts of their forwards. Harrison won a lineout and the forwards mauled the ball to the line, where Cross scored.

Eyre's conversion seemed to set up the Navy for victory but it was the RAF, again prospering from their policy of spreading the play, who struck back.

It was a spirited end to a lively game in which just 700 spectators made a surprising amount of noise in a stadium capable of holding 78,000.

SCORERS: Royal Navy: Tries: White, Cross, Conversion: Eyre. RAF: Try: Underwood. Penalty goals: Lazenby (3).

TRY: Lt A B Eyre (CtGRM), LPT R Williams (FMS), LPT D Gibson (FMS Richmond), Mike C White (RAF Deal), Mike S Brown (RAF Deal), CPO J Fletcher (FMS Neptune), Cpl P Livingstone (R Stowmarket), Lt N D Bedford (FMS Osprey), Cpl J Walker (CtGRM), WEM D Parker (FMS Morwenstow), Cpl R Armstrong (CtGRM), LPO G Harrison (FMS Wexham), Lt Col O Cross (RAF Stowmarket), Capt C B Palmer (FMS Warton), C/Sgt M Hewitt (RAF Deal).

RAF: Sgt S Lazenby (RAF Cosford), SAC G Chapp (RAF Lydd), Cpl D Morgan (RAF Sealand), Cpl S Bole (RAF Warton), Lt R Underwood (RAF Cranwell), Cpl N James (RAF Cranwell), Sgt S Wormald (RAF Cosford), APO J Thorpe (RAF Sealand), Sgt L R Miller (RAF Warton), Jnr Tech B Williams (RAF Brackley), Sgt G Morgan (RAF Bideford), SAC P North (RAF Cranwell), SAC P Chalkley (RAF Brackley), Jnr Tech S Bole (RAF Cosford), Fl Lt C Moore (RAF Lydd), Rola replaced by SAC G George (RAF St Albans, 40m); Colley replaced by Cpl A Meehan (RAF Halton, 82).

Referee: C J Hanson (RFU).

Answers from page 45

BUSHNELLS TURTLE (c) Cornelius van Drebel successfully demonstrated a submarine in the Thames in the reign of James I. But the first to be used in naval warfare was David Bushnell's Turtle built at Saybrook, Conn., in 1775 and used to attack (unsuccessfully) the British 64-gun Eagle in New York harbour. It was made of oak, coated with tar and looked like two turtle shells joined together. A foot pedal operated a cork to let in water when it was desired to dive, and two other hand pumps expelled the water to make the vessel rise again.

PSALMANAZAR (b) Georges Psalmanazar, the classic type of an impostor. A Frenchman, whose real name is unknown to this day, he appeared in London in 1703 claiming to be a native of Formosa, at that time an almost unknown island. In 1704 he published an account of Formosa with a grammar of the language, which from beginning to end was a fabrication of his own. The literary and critical world of London was taken in, but his imposture was exposed by Roman Catholic missionaries who had been in Formosa.

A COGGESHALL JOB (c) Something foolish. It is said that the Essex Men of Coggeshall wanted to divert the current of a stream, and so fixed hurdles in its bed. Another (presumably Suffolk) tale is that a mad dog bit a wheelbarrow, and the people, fearing the wheelbarrow might go mad, chained it up in a shed.

MATAPAN STEW (a) A meal concocted of leftovers, and so called from the fact that the cook of HMS Perth served a scratch hot meal during the Battle of Matapan, 28 March 1941.

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Sensual boost for beauty

Frederic Leighton: An Emblematic Enigma. Radio 3, 7.55pm.

A century after the death of Leighton, Victorian painter, president of the Royal Academy, and assembler of beautiful objects, some non-aesthetic questions remain unanswered: Did he have affairs with married women in high society? Did he sire illegitimate children? Was he homosexual? Less prudently, who modelled for him when he painted his *Venus Disrobing for the Bath*? In a direct connection between his *Venus Disrobing for the Bath* and his *Portrait of a Young Man*, museum, are art historians Liz Pretjohn and Christopher Newall. They explain how it happened that in an era we tend to think of as a straight-laced, Leighton succeeded in giving such a sensual boost to an art movement dedicated to the worship of beauty for beauty's sake.

Analysis: Traza and Prospero Radio 4, 8.00pm.

The starting point for Richard Cockett's inquiry into the links between education and training and between jobs and economic prosperity, is the belief that the 19th-century academic concept of education survives in the Britain of the 1990s. More specifically, education is still regarded as a social exercise rather than as a steeper education and training and economic growth has yet to be proved conclusively. By itself, he thinks, it would not create more jobs. What it could create is a highly skilled work-force capable of doing today's and tomorrow's jobs better.

Peter Daville

RADIO CHOICE

RADIO ONE

6.30am Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00am Kevin Greening 12.00am Lisa Evans and at 12.30-12.45pm News, 1.15 The News and at 4.40pm Soul Classics 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Dave Pearce, and 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.15 The Net 7.00pm Evening Session 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 10.45pm Johnnie Walker, and at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

6.30am Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15pm Pause for Thought 7.30pm Wake Up to Wogan 9.15pm Pause for Thought 9.30pm Ken Bruce, and at 10.00pm The 1960s 11.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thresher 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00pm The News 7.45pm David Allen 9.00pm Paul Jones 10.00pm Gospel 10.30pm The Jamblers 12.05pm Steve Madden, and at 1.30pm Pause for Thought 3.00pm Alex Lester, and at 3.30pm Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme and 6.55, 7.55pm Racing preview 8.35pm The Megsnet 10.20pm Euronews 11.30pm Health News 12.00pm Midday with Alan and 12.30pm Newsbeat 1.15pm Entertainment News 2.05pm Race on Five and at 3.15pm Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00pm John Keville 4.05pm and 5.45pm Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra 7.25pm On the Line 8.05pm Women on Top 9.05pm SportsAmerica 9.35pm American Graffiti 10.05pm News Talk 11.00pm Night Extra 12.05am After Hours

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00pm Simon Bates 10.00pm Jonathan King 12.00pm Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Rastum 4.00pm Scott Chisholm 7.00pm Sean Bolger 10.00pm James White 1.00-2.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. With Andrew McGregor, Vanhal (String Quartet in A), Dvorak (Symphonic Variations), Saint-Saens (Two Choruses, Op 68), Elgar (Overture), Cockaigne, Croft (Suite: The Twin Rivers), Bliss (Cello Concerto)

9.00am Morning Collection. With Catriona Young, Vaughan Williams (English Folk Song Suite), Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, Op 53), Allegri (Miserere), Schumann (Humoresque, Op 20)

10.00am Musical Encounters. With Chris Wilson, Artist of the Week: Boris Berezovsky, piano. Liszt (Etude d'execution transcendante No 8, Wide Jag), 10.05pm Chaperlaine (Action, excerpts), Onslow (String Quintet in C minor, Buxtehude), Bartok (Concerto), 11.00pm Liszt (Etude d'execution transcendante No 9, Roccantada), Berg (Three Movements), Lyric Suite), Mozart (A G minor), Strauss (Five Piano Pieces, Op 3)

12.00pm Composer of the Week: With David McGuinness, Muffat and Son, Georg Muffat (Suite in G, Lasta poses), Gottlieb Muffat (Suite No 1 in C, Toccatina No 6 in F), Georg Muffat (Sonata No 4 in E minor, Armonico tributo)

1.00pm We All Get Together. Some Times, Gordon Stewart introduces the first of three programmes of operatic excerpts from Monteverdi to Wagner.

2.00pm Marina Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in D, Op 78)

No 5; Berg (String Quartet, Op 3); Schubert (String Quartet in D)

3.30pm BBC Orchestra: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osma Kanski; Ernst Kovacic, violin; Klami (Overture: The Fables on the Heals); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D); Dvorak (Symphony No 9 in E minor, From the New World)

5.00pm The Music Machine. With Julian Gregory

5.15pm In Tune. Nicola Heywood Thomas celebrates the achievements of William Walton's National Opera as it nears its 50th anniversary including Gounod (Rondeau of the Child), Cui (Faust)

6.55pm Live from Concert Garden: Arabella. The last opera from the partnership between Richard Strauss and Hugo Wolf. Conducted by Mark Elder. Act 1: 7.25pm Frederic Leighton: See Choice; 8.25pm Act 2: 8.10pm Between Heaven and Hell. A portrait of Jerusalem, 8.25pm 3

10.45pm Night Waves. Tony Palmer reports on the opening night of some Sunny Day, Martin Sherman's new play, and talks about Woody Allen's latest film, *Mighty Aphrodite*

11.30pm The Arts. With Andy Hamilton, Schubert. With Paul Guinness (1)

12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes. A first broadcast for Mark Lockheart's new group, Matheson

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing and Weather 6.10pm Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today and 7.25, 8.25pm Sport 7.45pm Thought for the Day 8.15pm (from Women Gardeners 8.55pm Weather

9.00pm News 9.05pm The Moral Maze, with Michael Buerk

10.00pm News: Pankaj (FM only), with Tanika Gupta, With Meera Syal and Soudi Fares (34)

10.00pm Daily Service (FM only) and 10.15pm The Soapbox (LW only)

10.30pm Women's Hour (11.30pm From the Heart) News Correspondent

12.00pm News: You and Yours 12.25pm Looking Forward to the Peace Jobs: John Boateng and Barry Green, Times columnist Nicola Lawson, 881 Parttime and Dr Roy Porter 12.55pm Weather

1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40pm The Archers 1.55pm Shipping Forecast

2.00pm News: A Popstar Plot, by Peter Lake tells the extraordinary true story of how the Popstar Plot came into being. With Stratford Johns, June Tabin, Cyni Shaps and Andrew Branch

3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker sees On the Line in Dundee

4.45pm Short Story, Mita Menon Did Not Believe in Magic, by Dina Mehta. Lack of choice has made Indra Menon a bitter woman, but an unexpected bunch of flowers transforms her attitude. Read by Vayu Mehta

5.00pm 5.50pm Shipping 5.55pm Weather

6.00pm 5.00pm Clock News 6.30pm Farming Today 6.25pm Marvellous. Sand Toksvig is joined by Tony Hawks, Neil Mulvaney, Kate Robbins and Fred Mulder

7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm The Milton Pound Radio Show with Helen Macdonald. A comic look back at the great turning points of the last 1,000 years. Written and presented by Andy Hamilton and Nick Revell with Felicity Montagu and Jasper Jacob

8.00pm Analysis: Train and Prospero: See Choice

8.45pm Better Left Unsaid? A new series looking at six unsent letters begins with former army sergeant John Williams writing to his mother

9.00pm Does He Take Sugar? With Ross King

9.30pm Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59pm Weather

10.00pm The World Tonight, with Ross King

10.45pm Book at Bedtime. Stalin's Nose, by Rory MacLean. Read by Alistair McGowan (9)

11.00pm George Melly's Overture Up. The last part of Joe Dunlop's dramatisation of George Melly's autobiography. With Steve Scaife, Jay Osden and Charlotte Coleman

11.30pm Utopia and Other Destinations. The environmentalist Jonathan Parry talks about his personal vision of Utopia

12.00pm News 12.27am Weather 12.30pm The Late Book. Devil in a Blue Dress, by Walter Mosley (910) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.2. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Sharing the problems of finding a mate

Jesus Christ was looking for a flamate, would he mention in the advertisement the fact that he was seeking a Christian? Or would he just put "room for rent" and see who turned up? I think the latter, not least because the last person to consider himself a Christian was surely Jesus Christ. Such descriptions are for followers, not leaders.

Nor is there much evidence in the Bible that Jesus, a man born in a stable, ever enjoyed the luxury of having a "spare room to let, suit quiet, professional, vegan, non-smoker with GSOH", which for those who live outside the classified ads stands for Good Sense Of Humour.

These bizarre matters arise from last night's *Modern Times* (BBC2), a series which is uneven to say the least, but which on this occasion had me chuckling all the way through. But then the Goodness of my SOH is near-legendary.

The notion was to take a few groups of people and watch them recruit a flamate. This is an old idea but last night it worked an absolute treat. Of course, being on BBC2, the whole thing was based in London and the recruiters were all rather well-spoken young things.

They included three chaps looking for "two girls to even things up". Three? Two? Even? Yes, I think I see. And there were three Christian girls, one of whom agonised at the beginning about whether Christ would say he wanted a Christian. She decided he would.

There were also two girls looking for a male. One thought the main qualification was yes, a GSOH while the other wanted somebody who "looked good in a towel". She even asked one of the interviewees if he looked good in a towel and he said - you'll be amazed at this - that he did.

of modern life. The days when a person with a spare room was pleased to hear from someone without one are long gone. Each of our groups interviewed dozens of people, one even planned to throw a party for all 40 applicants.

I liked the Christians best, in entertainment terms. The thing is, how to tell if someone really is a Christian? One chap told them, when asked about prayer: "When you want me to pray just knock on the door and tell me where to kneel." Thanks, we'll let you know. I also liked the Christians least. They seemed to have missed the point, which is that if Jesus had a room empty he would have looked for someone who needed a home.

Carl Bridgewater, aged ten, was delivering a paper to New Tree Farm in 1978 when he was murdered mysteriously having interrupted a robbery. Four men went to jail in a case

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

which entirely hinged on the confession of one of them, Patrick Molloy, who died in prison. All have pleaded their innocence ever since and indeed one of them, Michael Hickey, turned down parole last year because he is determined to stay in jail until he has cleared his name.

Rough Justice (BBC1) returned to the subject last night. The convictions have always looked

questionable, for there were no witnesses and no forensic evidence and the "confession" made by Molloy was quickly withdrawn. Several independent inquiries have exposed procedural errors by the police and Molloy always said the confession was beaten out of him.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, refuses to send the case back to the appeal court. Yet there is important new evidence. This includes the fact that two fingerprints found on Carl's bicycle, which was thrown into a pigsty after the murder, were never matched: they did not belong to any of the convicted men yet this fact was withheld from the defence at the original trial.

Rough Justice made a powerful case and Mr Howard could do himself some good by heeding it. Last night's other highlight was a boost for the British car industry. When I was a lad no self-

respecting thriller was without an old-model Jaguar, often a Mark 10, which only had to offer a glimpse of its registration letter to tell us that it was about to be blown up, driven over a cliff or firebombed.

Now comes *Bodyguards* (ITV). And here comes an old-model Mercedes. Mar throws grenade, bang! End of Mercedes. And here, 20 minutes later, comes a car chase between a gleaming British N-reg saloon and an E-reg BMW of a nondescript shape long abandoned. Whoops! The BMW goes off the road and turns itself into scrap metal.

What a relief! At last, needing a car wreck, the television industry turns to foreign muck. Gleaming British motors come through unscathed. *Bodyguards* is billed as a pilot for a series, so there is time yet to have a Volvo reduced to iron filings in a chase against a Metro. Aside from that, *Bodyguards* is

old-fashioned, routine stuff. It is all about the Close Protection Group (CPG) formed from a merger between the Diplomatic Protection Group and Special Branch. Or something like that.

Pot? If you insist. Internal dissent between Christians and Muslims in small African country, leaders in London for conference, brave CPG types, including Inspector Liz Shaw (Louise Lombard) deployed to protect same.

Dialogue? You might call it that. Sound bites, really. "I've got a source to protect." "Lucky man. I've got a country to protect." But I enjoyed the parting shot from the Foreign Secretary to Inspector Shaw: "Back at 6.30 please, evening dress, no unattractive bulges."

I reckon Jesus will be advertising in a Mayfair penthouse before Malcolm Rifkind is heard to say that.

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (71782)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (94463)
 - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7913188)
 - 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7139850)
 - 9.45 Kiboy (s) (1299343)
 - 10.30 Good Morning (s) (69879)
 - 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6922053)
 - 12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (8770343)
 - 12.35 Going for Gold: General knowledge quiz presented by the dapper Henry Kelly (s) (3821701)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (44940) 1.30 Regional News (9457088)
 - 1.40 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4467262)
 - 2.00 The Flying Doctors Double Bill (Ceefax) (s) (59121)
 - 3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1711255) 3.50 Doublebill (s) (1731492) 4.10 The Wizard of Oz (Ceefax) (2901343) 4.35 The Boot Street Band (Ceefax) (s) (9500053) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (1013904) 5.10 The Ant and Dec Show (Ceefax) (s) (1219508)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (152508)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (850)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazines (430)
 - 7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3492)
 - 7.30 EastEnders: Tiffany does Tony a favour; and Kathy has a special request for Pat. (Ceefax) (s) (614)
 - 8.00 Wildlife on One: The Dolphin Diaries. David Alenborough narrates this revealing study of dolphins filmed in the wild (Ceefax) (s) (2140)
 - 8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Tony Wogan presents a look at the trials and tribulations of sports personalities (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1278)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4614)
 - 9.30 Making Babies. A focus on Professor Robin Winston, who runs Britain's busiest IVF clinic at Hammersmith Hospital. Despite being taken off her first IVF after a potentially dangerous reaction to the hormone drugs, Tania is determined not to give up and after 12 years of cancer, Rebecca's only chance is IVF and a donor egg (Ceefax) (s) (92999)
 - 10.25 Golf - the US Masters 1996. Coverage of the 60th US Masters from Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia (s) (267324)
 - NB: Owing to the golf coverage, the following programme may change
 - 11.25 FILM: The Incident (1960) with Walter Matthau, Susan Blakely, Robert Carradine, Peter Firth, Bernard Hughes and Harry Morgan. A small-town lawyer is hired to defend a German POW who has been charged with the murder of the local doctor. Directed by Joseph Sargent (s) (6792)
 - 12.55pm By-Elation Special. Live coverage of the results of the Staffordshire South East by-election. With analysis from Peter Snow (1093557)
 - 2.00 Weather (856096)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Codes**
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- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Age and Identity (4133071) 6.50 Bloodlines: A Family Legacy (873275)
 - 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (4827898)
 - 7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7463966)
 - 7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4890527) 8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (7838121) 8.35 Blue Peter (r) (Ceefax) (s) (485625) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7903701) 9.25 F.O.T. (s) (7353121) 10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (6991459) 10.25 (r) Star Trek (492925) 10.50 The Tick (r) (1164508) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (r) (8825063)
 - 12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (79527)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch (92069) 1.00 Charlie Chalk (r) (4282618)
 - 1.15 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures - Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide (4/5) (r) (s) (190255)
 - 2.15 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7448995)
 - 3.00 News (Ceefax) (7874898)
 - 3.05 The Natural World (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7857633)
 - 3.55 News (Ceefax) (2094072)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (343)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (527)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. With America's First Lady, Hillary Clinton (Ceefax) (s) (813888)
 - 5.40 Carrier's Caribbean: Puerto Rico (Ceefax) (s) (958873)
 - 5.55 Global Warning: The Weight of Whales (879324) 6.00 Star Trek Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (510865) 6.45 The O Zone. With Jarvis Cocker and Dustier (s) (113430)
 - 7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4382)
 - 7.30 First Sight (258) NL: 7.30 Now You're Talking 7.50 Dad's Army (258)
 - MIDLANDS:** 7.30 Midlands Report
 - NORTH:** 7.30 Close-Up
 - NORTH SOUTH:** 7.30 Screen Eye
 - SOUTH WEST:** 7.30 Close-Up
 - WEST:** 7.30 Close-Up
 - 8.00 **Secrets of the Paranormal** (Ceefax) (s) (1922)
 - 8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarke puts the latest Aston Martin to the test and Quentin Wilson reveals the results of the survey on three-year-old cars (Ceefax) (s) (9817)
 - 9.00 Sykes. Comedy with Eric Sykes (r) (2256)
 - 9.30 Golf - the US Masters 1996. Live coverage from Augusta, Georgia (52091)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (228237)
 - 11.15 Late Review (834430)
 - 12.00 Screen Fringe: National Achievement Day (50164)
 - 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal BBC2, 8.00pm

You either believe in unidentified flying objects or you do not but either way Jerry Randles has an intriguing story to tell. She has devoted much of her last 20 years to studying UFOs and the curious role of the Ministry of Defence in tracking them. The tale begins in 1952 when the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, sent a note to his Air Minister: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?" The result was the setting-up of a department in the Ministry of Defence to collate UFO activity. But its deliberations have remained largely secret and to Jerry Randles's suspicious mind this could be sinister. Among her witnesses is a retired fireman whose sighting of a UFO in Cumberland led to a visit from two bowler-hatted men apparently acting for the British Government.

Ellington ITV, 9.00pm

Chris Ellison, who was so good as the rough detective Burnside in *The Bill*, takes on a new role as a sports promoter and agent. Ellison, who like Lovelady, seems to have only one name and a rather rough diamond, as he needs to be to prevent his star clients being nobbled by a rival management. Developed from a rather unpromising, yet highly popular, pilot which was screened 18 months ago, *Ellington* offers action rather than subtlety. It is the sort of show where you can spot the badies at a glance by the ratty expression on their faces. Our hero is not exactly a bundle of charm, either, but at least he is on the side of the angels. A tampered racing car and a washed-up darts champion are the pivots for tonight's episode, in which fan Botham makes the first of a promised series of celebrity cameos.

Undercover Britain: Shabby Treatment Channel 4, 9.00pm

Fay Macnicolle, a former psychiatric patient, finds out how today's mentally ill are faring under the Care in the Community programme. Her answer is: pretty badly. She is not advocating a return to Victorian lunatic asylums. But, checking incognito into privately run residential care homes and so-called benefit homes, she concludes that vulnerable people are being horribly exploited. Her report is a catalogue of terrible food, filthy rooms and minimum stimulation. One care home promises music appreciation. Pressed by Macnicolle, the owner says this means a radio in the room. When she tries to approach him on other matters, he puts her out into the street. Macnicolle may be highlighting the worst cases, but she offers ample evidence that the Department of Health's own guidelines are being routinely ignored.

Lost Contact Channel 4, 9.30pm

The woman from Kent Social Services says it is not their policy to break up families. She is referring to the case of Gill and her ten-year-old son, who were taken to the care of an aunt, Ellie (Now 21) and, the girls spent most of their lives with foster parents or in children's homes. Gill's contacts with them were severely controlled and rationed. For five years she did not see Josie at all. She seems to have a point. Yet Chris Culling's film takes neither side and tries to be fair to both. The girls, who had different fathers, were taken into care because the family home was judged to be unsuitable. Gill, who was herself adopted as a baby, admits that she was on drugs and had violent boyfriends. The film is a happy ending of sorts and Gill's hope is that the cycle of family turmoil can be broken.

Peter Wyntark

6.00am GMTV (8957184) 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7154168) 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (8778508) 10.00 Batman - The Animated Series (s) (6988985) 10.25 Cartoon (r) (1880459)

10.35 FILM: The Little Kidnappers (1990) with Charlton Heston. Remake of the 1953 Oscar-winner about Scottish orphans who adopt an abandoned baby and are branded kidnappers. Directed by Donald Shebib (s) (44374701)

12.20pm HTV West News (Teletext) (8996237)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (8324998)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3832917) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (5065459) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (54761324) 2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (54780459) 2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4019633)

3.20 News (Teletext)

3.25 Regional News (7880459)

3.30 The Riddlers (8919343) (r) 3.40 The Wind in the Willows (r) (Teletext) (s) (3074985) 4.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon (r) (5488998) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (295782) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (Teletext) (s)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (2620530)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (801459)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (141053)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (309966)

7.00 Emmerdale. Nick's anger erupts with chilling results (Teletext) (s) (8188)

7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville investigates what you can do when your locality is invaded by an overpopulating animal (s) (782)

8.00 The Bill. Sun Hill's CID team up with the Flying Squad to catch a gang of vicious armed robbers (Teletext) (7817)

As HTV WEST except:

- 6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (306966)
- 7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (782)
- 10.40 Strangely Scientific (784324)
- 11.10-11.40 3-D (884850)

WESTCOUNTRY

12.25-12.30 My Story (6906256)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (3832817)
- 1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79258053)
- 1.55 Home and Away (86365508)
- 2.25 Vanessa (54764411)
- 3.55-3.20 A Country Practice (4969148)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2620530)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (42564)
- 7.00 Westcountry News (458458)
- 10.45 The LADS (203169)
- 11.15-11.40 Power Game (168324)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

- 12.55 Home and Away (3832817)
- 1.25 Chain Letters (79258053)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (44653237)
- 2.20 Vanessa (54765140)
- 2.50-3.20 High Road (4019633)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2620530)
- 6.55-7.00 Life Line (929188)
- 10.40 Film: Angel of Death (88589898)
- 1.40am Not Fade Away (4588386)
- 2.40 Shift (3750270)
- 3.35 Customs Classified (5990915)
- 4.15 Jobfinder (8673928)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (1251386)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm Chain Letters (3832817)
- 1.25 Home and Away (79258053)
- 1.55 Shortland Street (44653237)
- 2.20 Vanessa (54765140)
- 2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4019633)
- 5.10 Home and Away (2620530)
- 5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimstoppers (88614)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (546)
- 6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (898)
- 10.40 Film: The Dead Pool (28256091)
- 12.55pm Music Box Profile (5305473)
- 12.40 Phoenix (1909744)
- 5.00 FreeScreen (80638)

SAC

Starts: 6.30 Fifteen to One (67492) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (26091) 9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years (84459) 9.30 Gamechanger (8421701) 9.55 California (6758998) 10.25 Mark and Mandy (6990343) 10.50 The Adventures of Tintin (1173256) 11.15 The Pink Panther Show (5891053) 11.40 Dog City (8849481) 12.00 The Legend of White Fang (r) (64695) 12.30 Sesame Street (r) (8705843) 12.55 Hullabaloo. Followed by Alfie Atkins (r) (7825899)
- 1.55 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (88356850)
- 2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham. Derek Thompson introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.15 races (s) (64517968)
- 4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (695) 5.00 Ricki Lake (Teletext) (s) (8456689) 5.45 Terrytoons (975548)
- 6.00 NBA 24/7. The Los Angeles Lakers v the San Antonio Spurs (s) (188)
- 6.30 Roseanne (r) (Teletext) (s) (140)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (701695)
- 7.50 The Slot (789053)
- 8.00 Africa Express. Toyin Fani-Kayode reports on how Uganda is getting back on its economic feet and is now recording the fastest growth in Africa. Beahar Baker goes to South Africa's first ballroom dancing championship of 1996 to discover why dancing has become so popular (689)
- 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Holidaymakers take camcorders to capture their true experiences (r) (Teletext) (s) (4985)
- 9.00 **CHOICE** Undercover Britain: Shabby Treatment (Teletext) (s) (7324)



Jenny Randles, UFO expert (8.00pm)



Chris Ellison is Ellington (9.00pm)



Josie, Ellie and mother Gill (9.30pm)

- SKY ONE**
- 7.00am London (15169) 8.00 Press You Luck (863189) 9.20 Love Connection (692388) 9.45 Oprah Winfrey (470284)
 - 10.40 Jeopardy! (524856) 11.10 Jeopardy! (524856) 11.30 Jeopardy! (524856) 11.50 Jeopardy! (524856) 12.00 Jeopardy! (524856)
 - 12.00am London (15169) 1.00 Press You Luck (863189) 2.00 Love Connection (692388) 2.25 Oprah Winfrey (470284) 3.20 Jeopardy! (524856) 3.50 Jeopardy! (524856) 4.10 Jeopardy! (524856) 4.30 Jeopardy! (524856) 4.50 Jeopardy! (524856)
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- THE MOVIE CHANNEL**
- 6.00am Tom Sawyer (1958) (15223) 8.00am From the Hip (1977) (4853) 9.00am The Great Pretend (1987) (6832) 10.00am The Little Prince (1986) (59459) 12.00am The Last of the Mohicans (1956) (18434) 2.00am The Magic Bottle (1982) (85614) 4.00am The Three Musketeers (1992) (258523) 4.30am The Road to Avonlea (1993) (1530072) 6.00am The Presidential 2 (1984) (65520) 8.00am The Paper (1994) (582610) 9.00am The Movie Show (r) (872725) 10.20am Dark Angel (s) (184339) 11.00am The 11th Hour (1994) (194199) 11.30am The Ascend (1994) (194199) 12.00am The Paper (1994) (582610) 1.25am The Movie Show (r) (872725) 2.30am The Presidential 2 (1984) (65520) 4.00am The Paper (1994) (582610) 4.30am The Road to Avonlea (1993) (1530072) 6.00am The Presidential 2 (1984) (65520) 8.00am The Paper (1994) (582610) 9.00am The Movie Show (r) (872725) 10.20am Dark Angel (s) (184339) 11.00am The 11th Hour (1994) (194199) 11.30am The Ascend (1994) (194199) 12.00am The Paper (1994) (582610) 1.25am The Movie Show (r) 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THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996

Scot full of confidence that Masters challenge will not end in another near miss

Montgomerie set to go one better

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE starts the sixtieth Masters this morning with something about to be fitted on his shoulders. Will it be his first green jacket, to continue the sequence of a European golfer having won four of the six Masters played in this decade, following Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer and José María Olazábal? Or will it be the albatross of yet another second place in a Major championship?

At his public school in Scotland, Montgomerie was taught modesty and British restraint. However, there is no hint of diffidence about his public utterances on these April days. He is, he says, as confident as he has ever been.

These words may come back to haunt Montgomerie by Sunday evening, but if, after a second place in the Players' Championship two weeks ago in only his second event of the year, the man ranked second in the world cannot speak freely of his optimism and confidence on the eve of this year's Masters, then when can he?

There is one example that perfectly demonstrates the level of Montgomerie's confidence. It suggests that he can defeat the fast-improving Tiger Woods, who may yet become the first amateur to win this event, and a strong field of international players, from which Ernie Els may be the pick. He can beat the revived Jack Nicklaus, said to be hitting the ball enormous distances once again, and even one of those surprise American winners who have popped up week after week on the US Tour this year.

The example is this: each Masters is preceded by a competition over the adjoining par-three course. It is frolic at which Fuzzy Zoeller, Payne

Stewart and Peter Jacobsen act the goat, hitting shots all at once, hauling a young spectator out of the crowd to play a stroke for them. No winner of the par-three competition has gone on to victory in the 72-hole event.

Such an omen carried no fears for Montgomerie. "Of course, I am going to play in it," Montgomerie said. "Someone's got to win the par-three and the tournament. It is just a coincidence it hasn't happened yet. Besides, I play better

Show of mastery — 44
Today's tee-off times — 44

under pressure. Hitting the first shot in the Ryder Cup was daunting. If I can cope with that, I can cope with anything.

"Being a favourite does not make it any easier or more difficult. The problems arise if you're 22nd in the world, not second. For me, there's no problem. I feel confident of where the ball is going.

"To win here, you've got to be brave. At certain times, there are certain putts that need to be hit positively and

not worry about the one coming back. If you worry about the one coming back, you've missed the one you're hitting."

Such words might sound boastful but, for once, they did not have a hollow ring. Imagining Montgomerie's fair curly hair above a green jacket did not seem fanciful.

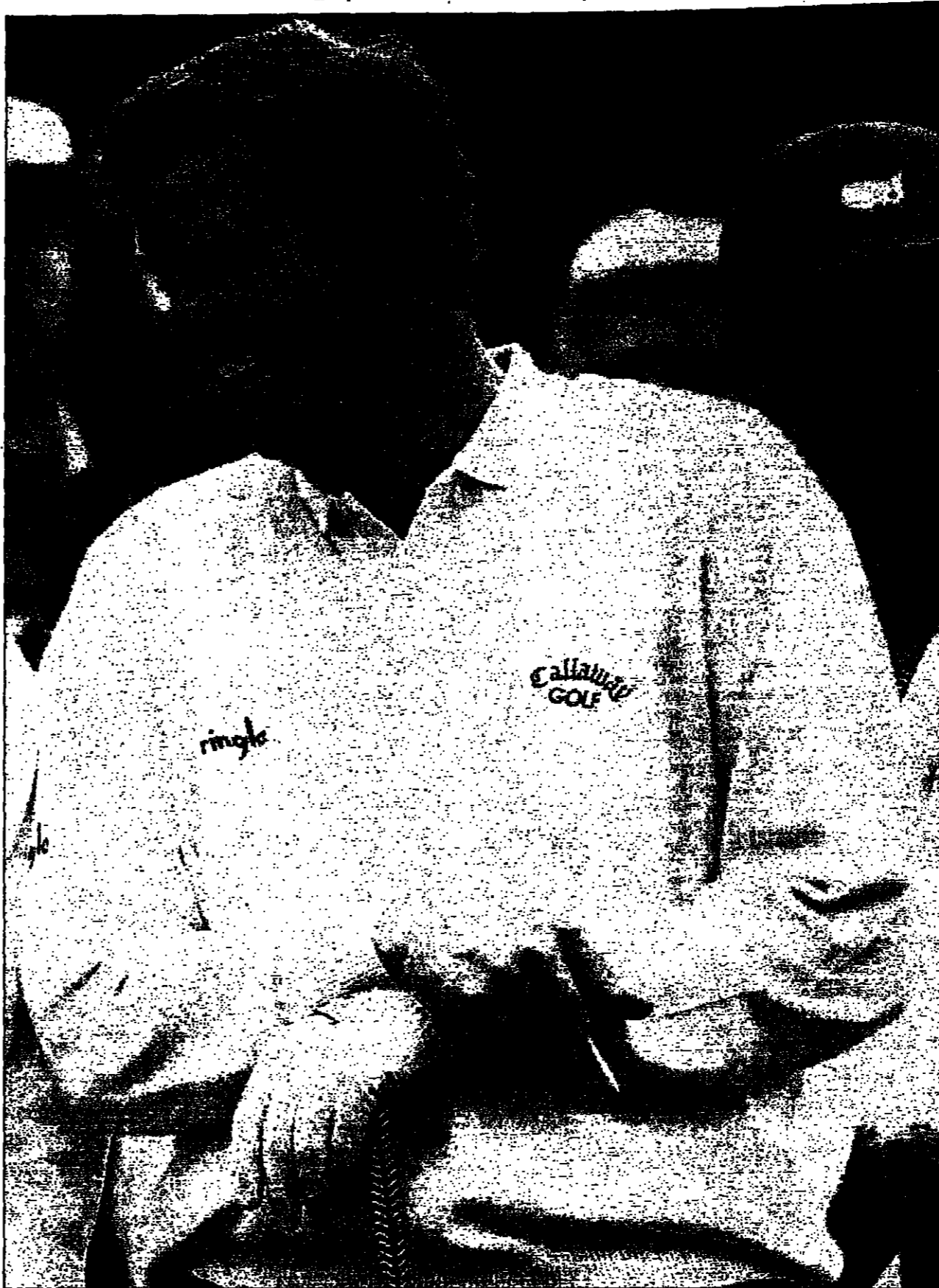
At 32, he has come of age. As he has lost weight, so he has gained maturity. As his drives have gained length, so he has increased in confidence. Losing 30lb over the winter boosted his self-esteem. Having his hands higher on the backswing has enabled him to hit the ball higher and further.

If he could be granted one wish, it would be that his putting could rise to the level of efficiency it was on the lightning-fast greens of Oakmont, where he lost in a play-off for the 1994 US Open. In golf, you drive for show and putt for dough, and it has been Montgomerie's putting that has stopped him from picking up the first-place prize-money.

"There is nothing I am working on right now," he said yesterday before going out for practice. "I am able to draw the ball where I have to. I am longer than I was. My hands are as good as they've ever been and I've been practicing my putting an awful lot. I hope all this will set me fair for this week."

Lee Trevino has maintained all his life that a left-to-right hitter cannot win at Augusta because so many holes bend from right to left. Montgomerie, whose natural shot is a gentle fade, believes this is not the problem that Trevino made it out to be. "You only need to hook or draw the ball on one hole here," he said. "And that is the 13th. It's a myth that this course does not suit me."

Woosnam is another contender enjoying excellent recent form but a recurrence of his back trouble could scupper his attempt to win the Masters for a second time. He has applied ice-packs and spent hours on the treatment table but admitted he was "stiff and sore" yesterday. "I have backache a lot, but I've had nothing as bad as this for about three months," the Welshman said after practice. "It's not the best time for it to have happened."



Montgomerie finds reasons to be cheerful during practice for the Masters, at Augusta, which starts today

Redgrave to ship oars after Olympic Games

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE REDGRAVE and Matthew Pinsent, one of the finest double acts in British sport, are set to go their separate ways after the Atlanta Olympics. Redgrave, bidding for an unprecedented fourth rowing gold medal at successive Games, insisted yesterday that it would be his last competitive appearance. Pinsent, with whom he defends the coxless pairs title won in Barcelona, says he plans to carry on rowing.

Redgrave, 34, who has also won six world titles, said: "I plan to retire after Atlanta. I have been racing now for the last 20 years and I can't see myself doing another four years' training."

"I am training hard for Atlanta to go the way we want it to go. Then I would be very happy to walk away from the sport — certainly from the competitive side."

"If I win another gold medal and I am standing there on the rostrum with people asking if I am going to retire, I will probably say 'no'. But certainly, the way I am thinking at the moment, this will be my last appearance."

Pinsent, 25, said: "For both of us, the bottom-line is that Atlanta is going to be a big change in our lives. We are both pretty convinced we will be heading in different directions."

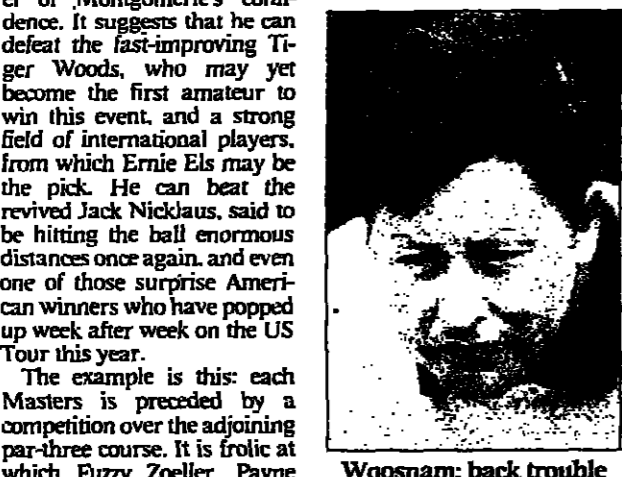
"I'm about as sure that I want to carry on as Steve is sure that he wants to retire."

Both men say their preparations for Atlanta are going well — with a successful swap involving Redgrave moving to stroke and Pinsent switching to the bow.

Pinsent added: "We are both comfortable with it and enjoying the change. None of us, including our coach, knows whether we are going to change back, if at all."

Redgrave and Pinsent were speaking at the launch of a scheme by Barclaycard Visa to donate £500,000 as holders use their cards in the 100 days leading up to the centennial Games.

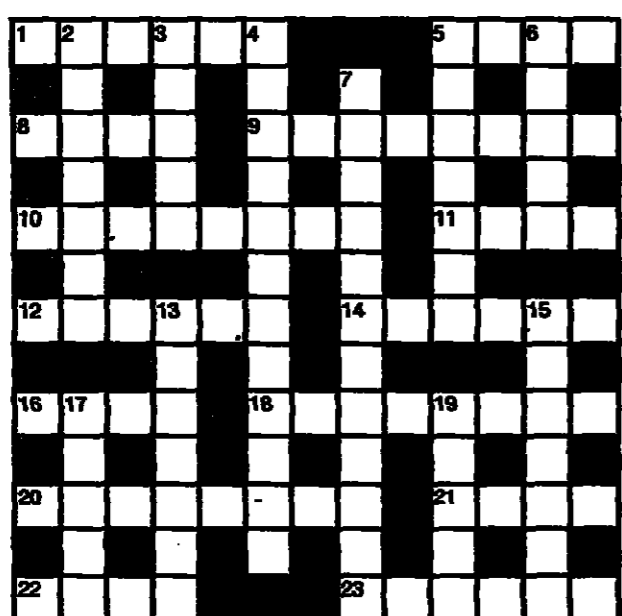
It will go to the British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association for training camps, coaches and equipment. □ The Amateur Rowing Association yesterday approved the extension of Jürgen Grobler's contract as chief men's coach up to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.



Woosnam: back trouble

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 753 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS**
- 1 Treeless Arctic zone (6)
 - 5 Mooch sadly (4)
 - 8 (Adolescent) spoils (4)
 - 9 Paralytic attack; (loosey) fit of rage (5)
 - 10 Centre of target (5-3)
 - 11 Wilfred — — Glendower (4)
 - 12 Japanese indigenous religion (6)
 - 14 Raincloud: saintly aura (6)
 - 16 Pellets; attempt (4)
 - 18 Unforthcoming in speech (8)
 - 20 One held in custody (8)
 - 21 Toothed implement; sweet store (4)
 - 22 Neglected child (4)
 - 23 With-it (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Of coarse manners (7)
 - 3 Live (m); linger (m) (5)
 - 4 Personal interest (in outcome) (2,3,2,5)
 - 5 Brother of Donalbain (Macbeth) (7)
 - 6 Pointed-hat fairy (5)
 - 7 Be developing excellently (4,2,1,5)
 - 13 I enthusiastically agree! (3,4)
 - 15 Anonymous (7)
 - 17 African doglike animal (5)
 - 19 Hidden store (5)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 752
ACROSS: 1 Rock, 3 Swearing, 8 Doll, 9 Circular, 11 Cumberstone, 14 Lavette, 15 Planet, 17 Melancholy, 20 Unlikely, 21 Ramp, 22 Peter Pan, 23 Melt.
DOWN: 1 Ridicule, 2 Columbus, 4 Whimsy, 5 Accomplish, 6 Iils, 7 Gory, 10 Tear-jerker, 12 Annotate, 13 Stays put, 16 Dahila, 19 Gyle, 19 Gyle.

Silver to step down and sell stake at Leeds

By DAVID MADDOCK

LESLIE SILVER announced yesterday that he is to resign as chairman of Leeds United, after 14 years. Silver, who is the largest shareholder in the club, said that he felt that it was time to "retire". He will be replaced by Bill Fotherby, the managing director.

In the long term, however, Silver intends to sell his 33 per cent stake, which will offer the potential for a bidder to buy a controlling interest in

the club ranked among the elite of the FA Carling Premiership. Richard Thompson, owner of Queens Park Rangers, has been floated as a potential buyer. Silver, however, said that there are several interested parties.

"There are all sorts of suggestions about who might want to buy in," he said. "None have got beyond the talking stage, although one may soon."

"When I do come to sell my stake, then there is no way I will let it go to someone who doesn't have the best

interests of Leeds at heart. The change of shareholding will not change the existing structure."

Silver, 71, has presided over one of the more successful eras in the club's history, guiding them from the brink of bankruptcy in the early 1980s, when he took control, back to what the club's supporters believe is their rightful position among the game's elite. His astute chairmanship, in tandem with the efforts of Howard Wilkinson, the manager, brought the Football League

championship to Elland Road in 1992, the final year of the competition.

His departure will raise further doubt about the future of Wilkinson, however, who has come under increasing pressure from supporters. □ Craig Whittington, 25, the Huddersfield Town striker, received a six-month ban for drugs offences from the Football Association yesterday. Whittington was found guilty of misconduct after testing positive for cannabis twice in ten months.

The Fridge still hamming it up

Simon Barnes warms to an old stager who sets store by well-rehearsed lines

English sport has a debt of gratitude to The Fridge. So, now that he has turned up in this country to play for the London Monarchs in the World League of American Football, it behoves us to be nice to him.

William "The Refrigerator" Perry was the fat kid who burst onto the national consciousness in 1985. He played with a rumbling exuberance; his great asset was momentum; and he won the Super Bowl — scored a touchdown, too — with the Chicago Bears in his rookie season. And he was, is, huge.

His official weight in the Monarchs player roster is "350-ish", the figure being pounds, and the "ish" being, at a casual glance, considerable. A total, anyway, of 25 stone plus. So there he was, doing his publicity stuff, promoting the start of the new season of this still somewhat underwhelming sporting venture, talking up the game on Sunday between the Monarchs and the Scottish Claymores at White Hart Lane. "I still got it. I'm gonna go out there and I'm gonna play." Elaborate circumlocution has never been The Fridge's way.

Er, well, he has been working on his assignment as kicker, and therefore, as far as the rest of the game is concerned... "Hey, Gavin," The Fridge said, "I played ten years in the NFL, and I still don't understand most of the rules." Meh, heh, heh.

All right, all right. A clapped-out star in a half-cock attempt to drum up support for a trumped-up league at an amateur-night lull-up of a press conference. No need to get carried away. But, as I say,



Hastings, left, and The Fridge come face to face yesterday

we owe a debt to Perry, and we should mind our manners.

For 1985 was the year of Heysel. The football season ended with that dreadful night, on which 39 people were killed at the European Cup final after a charge on opposition fans by inflated Liverpool supporters. Even football's complacency was shaken and our faith in the winter game was shattered, it seemed then, beyond repair. Every football match, even the act of reading the football results, seemed set about with shame, misery and death.

It was natural to seek relief, and it came in what was then

an exoticism: American football. The sport was shown in week-end highlights on Sunday evenings on Channel 4. Perry became an instant hero in a game, shown as the Monday Night Game in the States, with a short-yardage touchdown and two devastating blocks that allowed Walter Payton to score.

Perry was great big fat kid having a whale of a time and, what is more, he had the best nickname ever. He caught the fancy of America, and was rewarded, as America likes to reward its passing fancies, with enough money to last the rest of his life.

And for us Brits, he was perfect. He cheered us up. He made sport acceptable, fun, funny, life-affirming, in short. The Fridge became in an instant a traditionally ludicrous aspect of the sporting round. He was part of national rehabilitation.

Perry played in the NFL until 1994, shifting to Philadelphia Eagles the previous year. But he wants his young son to see him play, and he is in Europe with his family as a sort of lionising vacation. Besides, you can never drag an old ham off the stage.

"We're gonna play smash'em-out offense and smash'em-out defense. We're gonna see some blood." Thanks, Fridge. Sure, it's a tired act, but we still owe you.